Hafa Adai!

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Young chemist from the CNMI aims higher. PAGE 5
SULC installs new officers, swears in new members. PAGE 7

BEACH CLEANUP
Volunteers help employees of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Division of Parks and Recreation to remove close to 1,000 lbs of trash and green waste last Friday from the public beach between Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and the Hyatt in Garapan. ***Story on Page 6***
CHRYSTAL MARINO

'I categorically deny allegations'

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ada

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada has categorically denied the allegations of sexual harassment and other unprofessional conduct he is being accused of in a complaint filed against him by a Public School System employee.

See ALLEGATIONS on Page 4

DPL terminates Alter City Group's land lease

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Santos

The Department of Public Lands has terminated the lease agreement with the Macau-based Alter City Group Inc., which acquired a lease of a 152-hectare public land for its proposed $360-million ca-

See DPL on Page 4

CPA: Over 70% rate increase possible

» King-Hinds: Having to adopt over 70% increase makes me sick

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Hinds

It appears the Commonwealth Ports Authority's fears will soon become a reality as the only budget scenarios before the CPA board that would allow CPA to continue its airport operations includes a 70% to 79% increase in CPA's current airport rental rates.

CPA is set to hold an emergency board meeting tomorrow to discuss its fiscal year 2024 budget.

According to CPA board

See CPA on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Members of the bicameral conference committee talk about their respective proposed changes to the concurrent resolution for the government's fiscal year 2024 budget during the fourth day of their meeting yesterday in the House of Representatives chamber.

AFTER 4 DAYS OF DELIBERATIONS

Projected resources set at $163.4M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After four days of deliberations, the bicameral conference committee agreed yesterday to adopt a concurrent

See $163.4M on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
31

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Amazon has been quietly raising the amount some customers must spend on its site to get free shipping.
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ASIA
Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida asks China to urge its citizens to halt acts of harassment.
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LIFE & STYLE
Hundreds of thousands of revelers pack the streets of west London for the Notting Hill Carnival.
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This project was supported by Grant# H61MC30523 from HRSA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or HHS.

Local

DPW internship gives NMC student insight into career

A pre-engineering student from Northern Marianas College gained valuable firsthand experience in the realms of construction and planning through an internship with the CNMI Department of Public Works over the summer.

Throughout his internship with DPW, William Deleon Guerrero gained practical exposure to various aspects of engineering practice. His focus on material science allowed him to appreciate the nature of engineering projects.

"My time at DPW provided insights into the precision required by engineers in their projects," Deleon Guerrero said. "As a person interested in the field of material science, I understand that a somewhat discrete miscalculation can heavily affect the structural integrity of a building, bridge, or road. I also had the chance to observe what tools and measurements our firms utilize to ensure that our structures are safe."

Deleon Guerrero's decision to pursue the pre-engineering program at NMC stems from his interest in engineering and his aspiration to contribute to local infrastructure growth.

"Engineering offers a pathway to acquiring essential skills for community development," said Deleon Guerrero. " I also want to be a part of the call for local engineers and apply the necessary knowledge and skills our island needs."

Looking ahead, Deleon Guerrero envisions a career as an entrepreneur contributing to community progress, alongside pursuing opportunities within local engineering firms. His aspirations align with NMC's objective of producing skilled professionals capable of addressing local workforce needs.

DPW Secretary Ray Yumul said that Deleon Guerrero's eagerness to go into the engineering program is inspiring.

"We commend Will and other students like him who are determined to contribute to local infrastructure growth and eager to answer the call for local engineers," Yumul said. "We are proud to support his educational journey and wish him well in his future endeavors."

For more information about the NMC's pre-engineering program, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Torres moves to dismiss criminal suit with prejudice

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres wants the Superior Court to dismiss the criminal suit filed against their client due to the alleged unauthorized practice of law on the part of special prosecutor James Kingman.

As a possible alternative to disqualifying Kingman, Torres' defense team is asking the Superior Court to consider dismissing the former governor's criminal case altogether because the prosecution's alleged misconduct throughout the case has "incurably prejudiced" Torres.

The misconduct Torres' defense team is alluding to in its motion is Kingman's alleged failure to take the attorney oath authorizing him to practice law in the CNMI, and the misuse of subpoena powers that exposed Torres' bank account information.

"The unauthorized practice of law allowed by the OAG resulted in the prosecution misusing a Criminal Rule 17 trial subpoena in an effort to conduct a flagrant 'fishing expedition.' This improper conduct by an attorney not authorized to practice law also resulted in publicly exposing private and confidential financial information, i.e., the full account number of Torres's account with the Bank of Guam. This necessitated Torres having to close his existing Bank of Guam account and open a new account. Such conduct not only violated Torres' constitutional right to privacy, but it also constituted a criminal offense perpetrated against Torres," the motion stated.

Ultimately, Torres' defense team argues that dismissal with prejudice—meaning the case cannot be refiled—is the proper sanction for the unauthorized practice of law on the OAG's part.

"Imposing the sanction of dismissal with prejudice is the proper sanction for the unauthorized practice of law and will send a clear message to the OAG to reform the practices of the Attorney General's Office in its processing of applications for admission to practice law in the Commonwealth," said the motion.

Torres' team of lawyers further argues that dismissal is consistent with the OAG's position on the Bail Reform Act, which is currently pending in the CNMI Legislature

"The OAG's position is that reform is necessary to protect the public from repeat offenders. Dismissal of this case with prejudice is likewise necessary to protect the public from the OAG's recidivism and to reform its practices," they said.

Superior Court judge pro temp Arthur Barcinas, who is presiding over the case, is set to hear Torres' motion to dismiss on Sept. 11, at 10am.

Torres has been charged by the Office of the Attorney General with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres, his wife.

The complaint also includes theft charges related to the former governor's travel expenses amounting to $20,000 between April 2018 and May 30, 2019, using public funds.

The case likewise alleged one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a legislative subpoena.

Torres has denied the charges.

In September 2022, judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino dismissed without prejudice the contempt charge against Torres. Without prejudice means the charge can be refiled.

Guam Army Guard graduates first Jungle Operators

BARRIGADA, Guam—The Guam Army National Guard recently sent its first three candidates to the 25th Infantry Division's Jungle Operations Course in Hawaii, from Aug. 12-25. A grueling course with a nearly 50% attrition rate, Sgt. 1st Class Gary Santos, Sgt. 1st Class Danielglen Salas, and Sgt. Andrew Quinata went three for three.

The 25th ID Jungle Operations Training Course, run by the Lightning Academy, focuses on jungle mobility training, waterborne operations, combat tracking, jungle tactics, survival training, and more. Graduates of JOTC learn tactics, techniques, and procedures required to fight, win, and survive within any jungle environment.

"It was challenging," said Salas, who is a noncommissioned officer with the Guard's Headquarters Element. "There were times I had to look down at my Guam patch and my nametag to remember why I'm here. It helped me finish the course knowing that I'm representing our Guard and our island."

One event that stood out to Salas was the Jungle Survival Event, where students had to live off the land for 24 hours. "I've never eaten so many cherry guavas," said Salas. "I'm thankful our fishing team caught something, because we were getting pretty hungry."

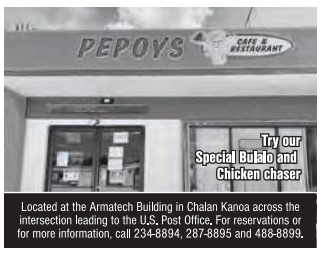
Salas completed the course despite suffering a possible shoulder dislocation while navigating the steep terrain in the mountains of Oahu. During a brief wait in a local emergency room, he relocated his own shoulder using a waiting room chair, and promptly returned to duty.

Command Sgt. Maj. Celso Leonen, command senior enlisted leader of the Guam Guard, traveled to Hawaii to witness the graduation ceremony and congratulate the troops. "Our soldiers are fighters. They don't quit, they won't quit, and they have a lot of heart," said Leonen. His goal is to send more troops to the school and certify as instructors, so Guam can teach a version of the course for the National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Michael Cruz, adjutant general, shared the strategic importance of expanding this new capability for Guam and the Marianas, specifically. Cruz stated that creating a jungle course in Guam addresses the uniqueness of small Pacific Islands with limestone forests, which create tactical differences from the terrain of Hawaii. "My top priority is the defense of Guam and the Marianas," said Cruz. "As the native defenders of our homeland, we have the obligation to excel at fighting in this environment, and to share that excellence with our troops and partners in the region." ***(Guam National Guard Public Affairs)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, U.S. Army Sgt. Andrew Quinata, Sgt. 1st Class Danielglen Salas, and Sgt. 1st Class Gary Santos, assigned to the Guam Army National Guard, complete the Jungle Operations Training Course at the 25th Infantry Division Lightning Academy, Wahaiwa, Hawaii, Aug. 24, 2023. All three successfully graduated the grueling, 12-day course.



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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):
1. Suspension of Airline Incentive Program
2. Parking Rates Increase
3. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, August 31, 2023,*** at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/20/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations for final adoption

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- D.Demapan (Social Worker applicant) letter to the Board
- Complaint letters from CHCC

XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

‘No more funds for shuttle service for tourists’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has been funding the shuttle service for tourists since September 2022, but its funding will be exhausted by tomorrow, Thursday.

That prompted MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion to ask the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Aug. 2 to allocate $15,000 for one month to continue the shuttle service without interruption.

The shuttle service, which costs $15,000 a month, transports tourists from hotels in the southern and northern areas of Saipan to downtown Garapan and back.

Concepcion said they are excited by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority’s announcement of their bus service, which mirrors the shuttle’s southbound route and will allow tourists to continue going to the Garapan area. Unfortunately, he said, they’ve been informed that that the COTA bus service will not be in effect until October later this year.

He said this means that the shuttle service for tourists will not be available in September 2023—unless that one month is funded.

“As you know, the CNMI’s economy is dependent on the tourism industry. The shuttle service gives our visitors a positive experience and adds value to their visit to the Marianas,” Concepcion said in his letter to delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

ALLEGATIONS

From page 1

In a statement yesterday, Ada said he’s aware of the media inquiries about the matter and that “it’s crucial to set the record straight: there is a pending grievance from one employee. You may verify that with PSS. I categorically deny these allegations.”

Besides the short statement, Ada said he will not comment further on the matter.

He did say in the statement that he’s devoted nearly 30 years of his professional life to serving PSS, with the last three-and-a-half years in the role of education commissioner. He said his recent decision to resign was driven by health concerns—“a decision I made after much reflection and consideration for my well-being.”

Moreover, he said, “in leadership roles, especially one as significant as that of the PSS commissioner, addressing grievances is an unfortunate reality. Over the years, I have faced and resolved numerous challenges governing my position. These challenges, while inherent to the role, can be taxing on an individual.”

He ended by saying his track record over the past few decades “stands as a testament” to his dedication, integrity, and commitment. He appealed to the media and the public to respect his privacy and refrain from speculations.

The allegations being raised against Ada cover a period of time, the latest of which dates to 2022 and the earliest dating back to 2003.

Charity Hodson, representing Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology & Distance Learning at PSS, said in a phone interview Monday afternoon that she can confirm her office did file with the Board of Education a grievance on Cruz’ behalf last November 2022, alleging sexual harassment, among other alleged professional misconduct by Ada. The grievance remains pending with the BOE.

“We are hoping to have that resolution regardless of his resignation,” Hodson said. “It was important for Dr. Cruz to be able to stand up not just for himself, but for other employees who went through that same process. One of the employees had actually submitted her own sexual harassment grievance, which PSS had stated was lost. And so, it’s important to see this process through and so the grievance will proceed. How it will proceed, I don’t know. It’s still in front of the Board of Education as to their decision and as to what the procedure should be.”

Hodson added that the grievance requested Ada’s removal as commissioner, but Ada was not placed on administrative leave and the BOE did not remove him.

Hodson said the BOE had appointed an administrative hearing officer to hear the grievance, but a week before a hearing scheduled for July 18, 2023, Ada requested to dismiss himself. It was then canceled and the BOE did not call for it to be rescheduled.

According to her, five witnesses were ready to testify about similar misconduct against Ada, and in support of Cruz, but they did not file their own grievances.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CPA

From page 1

chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, based on the viable scenarios that would allow CPA to maintain its operations, the board will be discussing the implementation of a 70% increase or more in its current airport rental rates.

“My job is to keep the airports open and I will do whatever it takes to keep the airports open. So what we anticipate is exactly what we’ve been saying since April—we are going to see rates and charges at the airport go up significantly. Right now, we’re looking at a potential 79% increase in rates. So how do we think that is going to work out in our ability to attract airlines to the CNMI?” she said.

Airport rentals do not only refer to rent paid for actual physical space like a store, but also refers to the assigned gate for each airline, called a terminal rental.

King-Hinds shared that one of the budget scenarios that will be discussed tomorrow is raising the current average terminal rental rate per square foot from $18 to a little over $32.

“The current average terminal rental rate per square foot for fiscal year 2023 is $18. For fiscal year 2024, a possible scenario is that the rental rate will go up to $32.78. All the scenarios we’re looking at now is around that rate. It’s going to increase because we don’t have [American Rescue Plan Act] funds to supplement our budget, and we don’t have the carrier numbers to split the cost in terms of these rentals and landing fees. We have multiple scenarios that we’re looking at and we’re trying to see which will be least painful for our airline partners,” she said.

“It makes me sick, having to adopt a budget like this, but what options do we have?” King-Hinds added.

Despite this possible significant increase in airport rates, King-Hinds said CPA will still need to cut down on operations as there just aren’t enough airlines coming to the CNMI.

“Because the way our budget works, the more airlines that come to the CNMI, the more tenants we can divvy up the cost of running these airports,” she said.

Aside from significantly increasing airport rental rates, King-Hinds said the board will also be discussing the possible elimination of airline incentive programs.

“One of the considerations before the board right now is eliminating airline incentive programs. Do you think that’s a good idea? That’s a source of revenue. All these are problematic and all of these are before the board and because we have a deadline and we do have notice requirement with our airlines, we have to adopt this budget by Thursday and this is why we’re having an emergency meeting [tomorrow],” she said.

DPL

From page 1

sino resort project on Tinian.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos issued a notice of termination last Aug. 18 to Johnny Leong, who is the corporate representative of Alter City Group, for failing to cure the defaults in the lease agreement.

According to Santos’ notice, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the 60-day deadline to cure Alter City’s breach was Aug. 8, 2023, and that the deadline has now lapsed.

The DPL secretary notified Leong that all Alter City’s rights under the lease are terminated, including the lessee’s right to use the premises.

Santos said that, as per the agreement, upon termination of the lease, DPL may, upon 15 days of written notice, enter into the premises and take possession of all buildings, fixtures, and improvements and evict Alter City without liability of trespass.

Alter City was given 30 days to appeal DPL’s decision to the DPL hearing officer.

Last June 9, Santos issued a notice of default and notice of violation to Alter City for failing to comply with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement, which was executed on Sept. 25, 2014.

Among the required corrective actions is to complete in the construction of a 500-room Plumeria Golf & Casino Resort, including 150 corporate villas, an 18-hole international golf course, a clubhouse with driving range facility, a medical center, farmer’s market, training center, retail services, conservatory, and staff dormitories.

Alter City was also informed that it has failed to pay $68,000 in rent to DPL from Nov. 1, 2022, to Oct. 31, 2023.

Alter City, through Leong, responded through a letter dated July 7, 2023, to the notice of default and notice of violation. DPL received the response last Aug. 7.

In her notice of termination last Aug. 18, Santos said that Leong’s letter outlines the challenges Alter City faces regarding China’s decision to outlaw travel and investment for the purpose of casino gambling, and regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.

“While DPL understands the impact of these challenges, they do not excuse lessee’s numerous defaults under the lease,” Santos said.

She said Leong’s letter does not submit to DPL any of the requested materials necessary to cure Alter City’s breach of the lease.

In October 2014, the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously approved during a joint session the public land lease between Alter City and DPL. The lease agreement calls for an initial 25-year lease with the option to extend for 15 more years.

Court OKs commission for IPI receiver

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted Clear Management Ltd.’s request for the release of its commissions from the fifth auction of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC properties, which ended back in July.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday Clear Management’s motion for the disbursement of $48,904.60 in sales commissions from the IPI auction.

The total value of the successful bids received at that auction was $489,046. Pursuant to the terms of the receivership, Clear Management, as the court-appointed receiver, is entitled to 10% of the funds raised from each auction.

The court granted the motion as there were no objections lodged in opposition to Clear Management’s request.

“IPI filed its notice of non-opposition to the mMotion, and no other objection has been lodged. In accordance with the order amending procedure for approval of auction sales and disbursements, the court hereby grants the receiver’s motion for disbursement of sales commissions, in the amount of $48,904.60. The court authorizes and directs the disbursement of that sum from The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC Escrow Trust Account to Clear Management, Ltd. The hearing scheduled for Sept. 1, 2023, is hereby vacated,” the order stated.

Clear Management’s limited receivership was established after USA Fanter Corp. sued IPI for breach of contract. The court then issued a final judgment in favor of USA Fanter. Last month, IPI and USA Fanter settled the case.

$163.4M

From page 1

resolution that sets the ceiling of the CNMI government’s projected resources for fiscal year 2024 at $163.4 million, which is $9.1 million lower than the governor’s proposed budget.

With the conferees’ adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 23-2, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1, the resolution is expected to be subsequently adopted by the full Senate and House of Representatives. That will then set the stage for the harder part—actually passing the budget.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios had proposed a budget of $172,564,623, which include approximately $9,149,310 from a proposed increase in the Business Gross Revenue Tax. That has not been enacted by the Legislature yet and proved to be a thorny issue.

The conferees agreed the total projected revenues must be corrected by $9,149,310 until such time that the Business Gross Revenue Tax increase becomes law and is collectible. They then agreed that total revenue resources should be $163,415,313.

The conferees resolved that the actual revenue resources for appropriation is $106,257,955, but with the addition of suspended earmarks, the total resources for appropriation is $114,238,931.

The conferees agreed that all earmarks are suspended, except for the $4,584,654 earmark for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), who is the House conference committee’s vice chair, said that, despite some delays that lasted hours and days, “we got a product out that’s going to move us forward so that the Senate can start addressing the budget.”

Attao said the House has high hopes of coming up with other revenue generating measures that will assist the CNMI’s fiscal condition in fiscal year 2024 and onward.

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate conference committee, believes the concurrent resolution “would be probably be the most contentious part of this budget process.”

As for the budget bill that is sitting in the Senate right now, Manglona believes that, with their new identified resources available for allocation that they voted on that day (yesterday), the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee will work closely with the House to address these new figures.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Young chemist from the NMI aims higher

Art Matthew "Matt" Hallig Mamaril has been accepted to the Colorado State University's chemistry doctoral program on a full-ride scholarship. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Soon after earning his chemistry degree from the Washington State University last May 2023, son of the Marianas makes the CNMI proud again as he continues on a full-ride scholarship at Colorado State University's chemistry doctoral program.

Art Matthew "Matt" Hallig Mamaril, who is one of three children, is currently doing a summer research program at Colorado State University before starting his Ph.D. program this fall.

His goal is to research solutions guided by his experience in chemistry to problems that the CNMI is currently facing. He has options in researching possible point-of-care diagnostic devices that will help detect various biomarkers to diseases that affect the general public or renewable energy solutions dealing with wastewater. One aspect of his research goals will deal with The National Alliance for Water Innovation.

Mamaril was born and was raised on Saipan, after his parents, both immigrants from the Philippines, came to the CNMI in a pursuit of a better life. On Saipan, Mamaril had graduated from Grace Christian Academy where he participated and led various extracurricular activities, such as, basketball, volleyball, outrigger. He was the Student Council president in his senior year. For college, Mamaril attended Washington State University, where he recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

He believes it was his curiosity, and its resulting love for chemistry, was the product of being a part of his first research lab. It was during that period of learning when he realized that this was what he loved to do. Mamaril found that he enjoyed challenging ideas and concepts. Ultimately, this led him to finding a research lab at WSU's chemistry department under Dr. Jeffrey Bell.

With 15-20 hours a week spent in the lab during the first semester, he had gathered enough results to give an oral PowerPoint presentation for his first Showcase for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, or SURCA, research conference at Washington State. That talk would then become his first published first-author paper to be featured in a peer-reviewed chemistry journal, the *ECS Sensors Plus*. His work was titled: "Identifying Hypocalcemia in Dairy Cattle by Combining 3D Printing and Paper Diagnostics."

Since then, Mamaril has also collaborated on other publications within the subgroup, as well as garnered other presentations and publications. He is now on his fourth publication in various peer-reviewed journals.

During his years at the university, he joined clubs and organizations, one of which was the Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity Inc., where he honed his leadership and communication skills. Mamaril also took part in the Asian Pacific American Student Coalition, and was a co-chair for the student-led conference, S.H.A.P.I.N.G., at Washington State University, along with fellow Saipan-native Wilgene Lieto II.

S.H.A.P.I.N.G. stands for Shaping High School Asian Pacific Islanders for the Next Generation, and their conference brought in high school students of Asian or Pacific Islander descent from across Washington to their site at WSU to learn about higher education and the opportunities that await them after high school.

In his final year at the university, Mamaril was the president of the Multicultural Greek Council, which oversaw 14 unique culturally-based Greek organizations at WSU. He was also awarded Executive Member of the Year by the the Fraternity and Sorority Life at WSU.

Mamaril currently resides in Fort Collins in Colorado.

BPD lays out 5-year plan to improve internet services in NMI

Fully funded by federal support, the Broadband Policy & Development Office recently submitted to the National Telecommunications & Information Administration its Five-Year Action Plan under the Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment initiative, or BEAD, which is aimed at improving internet services in the CNMI.

The plan outlines strategies for enhancing internet reliability, accessibility, and affordability for all members of the CNMI community. As this action plan is dynamic, it will be updated regularly.

In addition to the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan, the BPD is also drafting a Digital Equity Five-Year Action Plan. This blueprint aims to promote digital equity across the CNMI, ensuring equal access to digital resources and opportunities for everyone.

The BPD has now begun working on an initial proposal for the BEAD program, detailing projects specifically designed to tackle pressing issues such as high latency, high costs, and limited availability of affordable internet services in the CNMI.

Recognizing that stakeholders play a crucial role in its success, the BPD is actively seeking input and feedback from all internet users in the CNMI. To facilitate this, it hosts a weekly virtual meeting every Friday at 3pm, open to all interested parties.

To learn more about the BPD's initiatives, view and comment on the Five-year Action Plan, or join the weekly Friday stakeholder meetings, visit the BPD website at bpd.cnmi.gov. The meeting link can also be accessed on the website. For direct invitations to these weekly meetings, email cnmi.bpd@gmail.com.

The BPD ensures transparency and accessibility by making all meetings and information available on the website.

BPD, established through the CNMI Office of the Governor, draws financial support and guidance from the NTIA's BEAD Program. ***(PR)***

MVA and Hyatt remove close to 1,000 lbs of trash from public beach

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Hyatt Regency Saipan joined forces last Friday and removed close to 1,000 lbs of trash and green waste during their third endeavor of cleaning the public beach nestled between Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and the Hyatt in Garapan.

Despite the temperamental weather and rain, teams from MVA and Hyatt, with the help of the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, removed truckloads of green waste, debris, and trash from the beach, a nearby jungle area, as well as floating debris on the ocean.

The public beach, often mistaken as Hyatt's beach, borders the resort-hotel and extends toward the neighboring Crowne Plaza hotel and, although the property is not part of the hotel, Hyatt had been receiving complaints about the cleanliness and condition of the beach, so it decided to take an active role in helping clean the area.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Simon Graf, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, and projector coordinator Ray Villagomez pose with some of the volunteers that participated in a cleanup of a public beach between Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Hyatt Regency in Garapan last Friday.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Simon Graf, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, and projector coordinator Ray Villagomez were all on site helping the cleanup.

Graf said that, although Hyatt would try to maintain the grounds of the public beach as well as their own, it is often difficult and frustrating as the traffic of recreational users in the area continue to leave trash behind, making the job almost impossible, with the buildup of the trash and the debris requiring heavy machinery to move—machinery that they don't have.

As the beach was one of the only beaches open during the COVID -19 pandemic, it quickly became a hot spot for parties and recreation, Graf sees nothing wrong with this, but it only became a problem when beachgoers became irresponsible with their trash. It not only affected the beauty of the site, but gave visiting tourists a bad impression.

Another thing that concerns Graf are the cars that would drive onto the beach and park close to the water. There had been times where 15 cars were driven out and parked on the sandy stretch of the beach, he said.

According to Concepcion, these cars shouldn't be able to drive all the way onto the beach like that. After hearing Hyatt and Crowne Plaza's requests, MVA spoke with DPL and other stakeholders and were able to purchase a chain and padlock to block off and prevent vehicular access to the beach.

Graf shared his appreciation to MVA for responding and working with them, especially in preventing vehicle access to the beach, which has greatly improved the area.

During the team's break, Graf thanked the participating volunteers who had come out to help. "…It's not really only a Hyatt effort but it's a community effort," adding that their care goes beyond the borders of the hotel property. "We can't do it alone."

Concepcion said that both Hyatt and Crowne Plaza had reached out to them for help in clearing up the area, and they were happy to help partners in the tourism industry.

"…The partnership with Hyatt and the Crowne group and the relevant government agencies that are involved is critical so that there's a concerted effort from everybody to make sure the little things that affect the tourism industry are taken care of," said Concepcion.

Villagomez said they were able to remove nearly 1,000 lbs of waste and heavy debris that had been on the public beach and water, some caused debris washing up from eroding beach areas. The next goal is to make the spot "more enjoyable and safer for tourists."

He thanked Coastal Resource Management for the permits, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Saipan Mayor's Office for helping.

For this week, Villagomez said, they have scheduled to remove the metal remains of what used to be a beach volleyball court in the area. He said they tried to contact the Saipan Volleyball Association several times but has not received any word from them yet, "…so we're just helping Hyatt remove that because…it's kind of dangerous for tourists."

MILITARY BRIEFING U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, commander, Joint Region Marianas, joins Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, for a meeting with congressional delegates from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the House Committee on Natural Resources at the Hilton Guam Hotel & Spa last Aug. 24. Huffman joined Leon Guerrero and Tenorio to welcome the delegates prior to an oversight field hearing hosted by the committee titled, "Peace Through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S.-led Global Security." The hearing was held to examine the importance of the U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States to the United States' ability to counter the People's Republic of China's malign influence and maintain the nation's strategic interests in the region.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-A. Samoa), Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan)D-MP), and members of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Natural Resources attend a military briefing at the Hilton Guam Hotel & Spa last Aug. 24.

TINIAN OUTREACH U.S. NAVY/ANDRES LUZ

Joshua Medina, left, and Jason Duke, both assigned to, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, pose for photos after installing a light for a local church on Tinian. NMCB-3 is forward deployed throughout the Indo-Pacific region and United States territories to support and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. As the stand-in, crisis response, naval engineering force, NMCB-3 maintains a ready posture to deliver in-theater expeditionary logistics via expeditionary shore infrastructure, forward damage repair, and mobile construction.

SULC installs new officers, swears in new members

The Saipan Unity Lions Club inducted its new members and installed its officers and board of directors for Lion Year 2023-2024 last Aug. 19, 2023, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Saipan Unity Lions Club inducted its new members and installed its officers and board of directors for Lion Year 2023-2024 last Aug. 19, 2023, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

All 11 Lions clubs on Saipan attended the event, which started with remarks from SULC immediate past president Lindie Mae Moleno, who recognized the support and effort of all the SULC members and gave her key officers presidential awards.

SULC president Lion Bongbong Martinez also spoke, and he asked for the support and dedication of every member of the club in achieving the club's mission and goals.

Four new members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club and three new members of Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club were also inducted during the event.

SULC member Roy Aldan Ada delivered an inspirational message during the event.

Anna Mae Adaza Mayuga, the Region 2 chairperson, installed the new officers for the Lion Year 2022-2023: They are Bongbong Martinez, president; Lindie Mae Moleno, immediate past president; Caroline Tamparong, first vice president; Angelica Vina Lastimado, second vice president; Ellaizah Gail Manalang, club secretary; Mary Ann David, club treasurer; Jerene Bercilla, assistant treasurer; Birhen Martinez, Membership Committee chairperson; John Michael Manalang, Service Committee chairperson; Antonio Lastimado, Marketing & Communication chairperson; Reggie Carson Borbon, club auditor; Lhita Cuevas, assistant auditor; Nomer Mangalinao, safety officer; Elsa Bangilan, assistant safety officer; Edgar Alan Regacho, Lion Tamer; Mildred Ebuen, Tail Twister; Agripino Buensalido and Gil Anonuevo, club directors (2 years); Jose Pepito Digno and Wilfredo Barbo, club directors (1 year); Wrene May Alegre, adviser; and Eva Cuevas, assistant adviser.

The new officers of the Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club Lion Year 2022-2023 are: Jane Mozunder, president; Francine Ebuen, vice president; Angel Alou Buensalido, secretary; Jan MArini Millo, treasurer; Breana Mafnas, PRO/historian; and Mary Avila Salinas, telecommunications. ***(PR)***

The new officers of the Saipan Unity Lions Club for the Lion Year 2022-2023.

Saipan Unity Lions Club immediate past president Lindie Mae Moleno awards her key officers presidential awards.

The Saipan Unity Lions Club inducts four new members.

Three new members of Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club were also inducted during the event.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

COVID mitigation make sense whether or not it's a pandemic

If you or someone you know now has COVID (often again), you're not alone. Infections are ticking back up, with the 7-day average of confirmed and probable infections recorded by the city breaking 700 around mid-August for the first time in months, along with a corresponding increase in hospitalizations.

That's the bad news, but the good news is that we are much better prepared than we've ever been before to keep the numbers from skyrocketing. One potential positive shift in this new post-pandemic world might be a public that doesn't think of infectious airborne disease as something that simply happens to us, inevitably, to the point of having seasons where cold or flu are practically expected, only taking focused action when it reaches the level of public health emergency.

Obviously, COVID presented a much more grievous risk than a cold, but now that infections are climbing as the virus becomes endemic and our precautions wane in tandem with rising vaccinations, we don't have to simply accept that getting COVID or RSV or anything else is a normal part of life. Everyone is now much more familiar with mitigation against respiratory illness and, if you noticed that you happened to not get your regular cold those COVID years, it's because the steps we took to combat COVID worked for preventing all sorts of other ailments, too.

Does that mean we should close down schools and avoid public gatherings to prevent new COVID infections or the flu? Of course not, but one of the unfortunate upshots of the extreme politicization of public health has been the description of mitigation as all-or-nothing. Either we have shutdowns or everyone breathes directly on each other in a crowded room. In reality, we should get comfortable living somewhere in between.

That might mean pushing to reinstate government funding keeping COVID tests and boosters free after it's largely fallen by the wayside, not because it's a crisis, but because it's a good investment and a way of actually preventing a crisis. It might also mean choosing as an individual to wear a mask during upticks in infections, skipping out on social events if you're feeling sick, and pushing for employers to be more flexible about workers staying home when sick. Grabbing a mask on your way out the door if you're not feeling 100% or are headed somewhere packed can become as second nature as grabbing an umbrella if it's looking rainy.

Let's not forget that contending with COVID hasn't produced a definitive victory but an arms race, one in which a particularly nasty emerging variant could crash through the protections we think we've established. In fact, the current uptick seems to be driven largely by a new variant that can better evade vaccine protections, and the jury's still out on exactly how dangerous it is. Why open up that avenue of attack when some common-sense steps can decrease the risk that these variants will emerge in the first place?

On that front, it's good that the city continues to offer testing and vaccination for free, making it now an outlier nationally. Yet these tools are only as good as their utilization, so it's on everyone to do their part. No one likes getting sick, after all.

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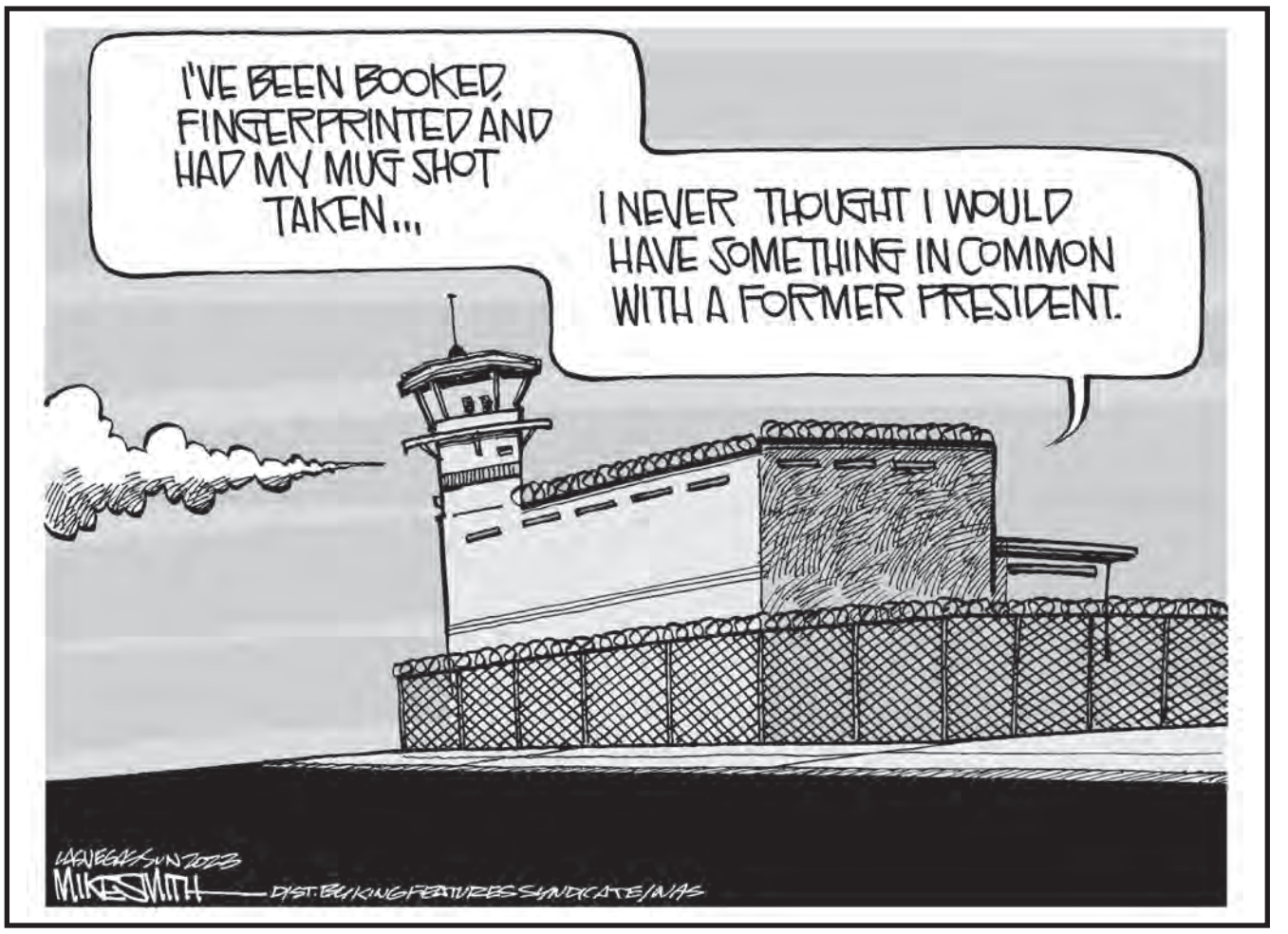
I'VE BEEN BOOKED, FINGERPRINTED AND HAD MY MUG SHOT TAKEN...
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH A FORMER PRESIDENT.
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023
MIKE SMITH
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Looking for love in all the wrong places, or serving the common good?

By BRUCE YANDLE
Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, dean emeritus of the Clemson University College of Business & Behavioral Science, and a former executive director of the Federal Trade Commission.

Here we go again. Another week and another set of efforts by the Biden administration to protect the U.S. economy from competition and combat climate change. But those looking for hard evidence that it will consistently serve the common good are sure to be disappointed. That, as country singer Johnny Lee sang, is "looking for love in all the wrong places." Special interests—those influential folks seeking a boost at the expense of others—are the ones finding comfort.

Yes, raw election politics seems to trump the public interest, whether it's a cleaner climate or lower grocery bills, nearly every time. Fortunately, all hope is not lost.

Beginning with the pessimistic side, a few days ago, the administration announced a new round of tariffs on solar panels exported to the United States from Southeast Asian countries that have been putting the final touches on Chinese components. After delays meant to give American industry time to adjust, Biden officials have added proverbial rocks to U.S. harbors to limit the availability of solar energy to the American public, even after Biden preached that climate change is an existential threat.

The tariffs are opposed by American buyers of solar panels, who are struggling to complete contracts in a competitive environment flush with Inflation Reduction Act funding. They are praised by U.S. solar panel producers who gain when those big rocks keep foreign competition out of American harbors.

For whatever reason, Chinese solar panel producers have for years favored selling America their cheap clean-energy products. While the administration's concerns about China's ambitions surely play some role, punishing our solar Santa Claus tells us which private interest matters most in Washington.

If one example isn't enough, around the same time, Mr. Biden's Department of Commerce announced a new round of tariffs on can-making metals from China, Germany, and Canada. These tariffs, which follow an investigation requested by the United Steel Workers, are opposed by U.S. food companies, who argue that food products will become more expensive.

Commerce countered that the three affected countries are selling their products to American firms at unfairly low prices. Interestingly, on the day of this announcement, other news stories told of how American single moms are struggling to pay rising grocery prices. Apparently, the interests of a powerful union carry more weight than the unorganized concerns of single moms and countless grocery shoppers. No concern was expressed by Federal Reserve inflation fighters.

Is this what we should expect in America? James Madison foresaw the challenge. Writing about the new nation's prospects in the Federalist Papers Number 10 in 1787, he explained how broadly organized democracies would fail because of the work of tightly organized special interest groups that subvert the common good to their own liking.

But, Madison argued, there is hope. He believed the new republic, with power spread among states and branches of government, would be different. Competing representatives from the various states would be caught in a constant interest-group struggle, making it difficult for any one faction to become dominant.

However, it's unlikely that Madison could have imagined the rise of an administrative state where regulators, not elected officials, are empowered to set so much policy. That's taken the influence-peddling game beyond the easy reach of voters and responsive legislators, helping to explain how special interests shove aside larger, more diverse groups of Americans to gain command over government-allocated resources. Elected leaders, though they preach otherwise, seldom have the incentives or ability to keep the common good one step ahead.

What, then, can We the People do to restore Madison's vision? Here are two things to consider.

First, recalling Madison's admonition, a lack of healthy political competition in the public arena is the true problem. A simple, nonpartisan reform—requiring more legislative review of regulatory actions—would re-invigorate political competition by forcing special-interest struggles back into public view. Out in the open, messy debates and conflicting interests can dilute the effectiveness of even top lobbyists.

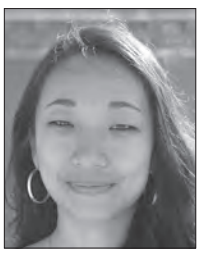
Second, with so many examples of unorganized consumers losing out to organized interest groups, my old agency—the Federal Trade Commission—might beef up its efforts to protect consumers and good, clean American competition by intervening in the proceedings of other federal agencies.

As strange as it may sound, it's possible that the common interest will be better served when there is more visible political action involved in public decision making, rather than less.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

I'm banned from visiting my family in North Korea. When will the US change this policy?



By CATHI CHOI
Los Angeles Times

Cathi Choi is the director of policy and organizing for Women Cross DMZ and co-coordinator of Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Network. She is based in Los Angeles. @CathiSChoi

My grandfather rarely spoke, except through his saxophone. He was a man of few words but a lot of heart. I can't pinpoint when exactly I learned that he was born in what is now called North Korea, but I do remember thinking, "I'm too old to be learning this for the first time." Like thousands of Korean Americans, my family is still divided by the ongoing war in Korea and the current U.S. travel ban to North Korea.

On Tuesday, the State Department announced that the Biden administration will extend the travel ban to North Korea for another year. This draconian ban was initially instituted in 2017 under former President Trump and prevents thousands of Korean Americans from reuniting with family in North Korea. Americans can still use their U.S. passports to visit some countries with travel restrictions, such as Cuba and Iran. But no U.S. passport is valid for travel to North Korea. Instead, U.S. citizens must apply for a totally separate "special validation passport." The State Department has unfettered discretion as to whether it grants this passport, and does so only in exceedingly exceptional circumstances.

Before 2017, thousands of U.S. citizens traveled to North Korea, many of them Korean Americans seeking to reunite with family from whom they became separated during the Korean War. The State Department made this decision despite the repeated urging of activists to lift this inhumane ban.

My paternal grandfather fled North Korea during the war and lived the rest of his life separated from his siblings and family members. Decades after this separation, he participated in an effort coordinated by a nongovernmental organization to reunite split Korean families when travel to North Korea was still permitted prior to 2017. In North Korea, he was shown a faded photograph of his elementary Sunday school class to verify that he was, in fact, related to family members with whom he sought to reunite. My grandfather failed to recognize his younger self in this photograph but recognized his teacher. This happenstance recognition permitted him to meet his sister, from whom he had been separated for nearly 50 years. He was able to meet her children for the first time and learned that his younger brother had passed away.

Our family has otherwise remained divided.

For years, I hesitated to look at photographs of our relatives in North Korea because I was afraid of what I'd feel. To even dream about the possibility of lifting this travel ban felt frightening because fighting for change would open me up to heartbreak. I have been tempted to settle into pessimism and dismiss attempts for change as naive. An elder Korean peace activist described this tendency as "so Korean": to break my own heart before anyone else could break it for me. She counseled me instead to engage in peace advocacy and learn from intergenerational Koreans from across the diaspora who have kept the fight aflame for decades.

If it weren't for the wise council of elders who map movements in lifetimes, this week's announcement would have been another reason for pessimism. However, we must remember that we in the U.S.—especially Korean Americans (gyopo)—have an important role to play. In the days before his election, President Biden pledged "to reunite Korean Americans separated from loved ones in North Korea for decades." But his administration has yet to make good on that promise. Biden instead escalates militarization and hurtles us closer to nuclear conflict, sending nuclear-capable submarines to Korea for the first time in 42 years. He also recently convened a trilateral summit with South Korea and Japan, further entrenching an escalatory militarized approach illustrated by this week's large-scale "Ulchi Freedom Shield" war drills which involved the participation of 12 countries total.

Activists have been fighting against this alarming militarization and forever war-making, including through a congressional bill, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act. This bill calls for urgent diplomacy in pursuit of a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War and urges the State Department to review and revise its travel restrictions. While the majority of the U.S. public supports the peace process in Korea, it is up to constituents to ensure our elected officials reflect this. Currently, 34 members of Congress are co-sponsors of the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, and through our advocacy, we can grow this number.

On the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement last month, scholars and activists gathered to call for a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War. Among them, Dr. Kee Park, a faculty member at Harvard Medical School, decried the current sanctions imposed on North Korea by the U.S., U.N. and others as deadly and "immoral." Park has traveled to North Korea over 20 times, and said Korean Americans must act as a bridge from our community to the general U.S. public.

While the two Korean governments have facilitated a handful of brief "reunions" between residents of South and North Korea, Korean Americans have been left out of this process entirely. This U.S.-imposed travel ban is unjust and inhumane. For Korean Americans, we cannot heal this intergenerational pain until this travel ban is lifted. We must strategize, organize and educate our communities to ensure that this draconian ban is not renewed again.

Make America Great Again for whom?

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was an editor for the* Week, *a writer for* Rolling Stone, *a communications consultant and a political media strategist.*

In a reactionary political movement desperately trying to reestablish the racial and sexual hierarchies of the past, pervasive fear of Black history is not hard to fathom. The more accurate the history that Americans learn, especially about the centuries-long Black struggle against violent White supremacy, the more morally and politically indefensible is the cry of Make America Great Again.

MAGA politics, after all, is about the subtext: Great for whom? The emphasis on the word Again gives away the game. It won't be great in the future for the people who didn't have it great in the past. For me, that point was crystallized in an appropriately Trumpy manner in a 2016 focus group in Pennsylvania. A White woman was rhapsodizing over "such happy times" in the 1950s. Her view is not an outlier. About two thirds of Republicans say American culture and way of life have "mostly changed for the worse" since the 1950s. "So many less worries," the Pennyslvania woman said.

As she spoke, she was seated next to a Black man who, in those same 1950s , would have been denied the franchise in much of America, and whose murder by a White man would have been sanctioned throughout the South – indeed, it would have been righteously justified provided the White killer had felt annoyed or, God forbid, mildly insulted.

"Such happy times."

To obscure the violence undergirding MAGA nostalgia, and perpetuate the myths, Arkansas Republican Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders is driving an Advanced Placement African American Studies course out of Arkansas schools before any politically adverse learning can take hold. Her approach is similar to one in Florida, where Republican Governor Ron DeSantis is working to preserve a sunny, White-centric, version of American history in public schools.

Huckabee Sanders, who as Donald Trump's White House press secretary was a brazen and documented liar , is not an especially subtle politician. In her state, students will be able to get credit for AP European History, but not for AP African American history. " And unlike with every other AP class on offer, the state would not cover the $90 cost of an end-of-year test that gives students the opportunity to qualify for college course credit," the Arkansas Times reported .

The African American studies course, Huckabee Sanders told Fox News, is leftist "propaganda" that's "teaching our kids to hate America." She did not cite an actual example of propaganda, or explain how learning about the horrific consequences of hate somehow teaches kids to reproduce it. (Lazy talking points are good enough for Fox.)

Of course, answering non-Fox questions requires a certain amount of confidence in your case. Confidence is not much in evidence so far. "Oddly, no one at the Arkansas Department of Education answered phone calls or returned emails about the decision Friday afternoon, nor could they be reached Saturday," the Arkansas Times reported. "And because the phone calls about the last-minute change went directly to teachers—bypassing district administrators and even principals—there was no paper trail to follow to figure out what was going on."

The duck-and-cover of Huckabee Sanders and DeSantis elicits little or no criticism from fellow conservatives. (One of the more honest addresses on race ever delivered by a conservative White politician was made, curiously, by former Texas Governor Rick Perry in 2015. It reads like a dispatch from another political world.) As in most things MAGA, the cowardice of leaders is at least partly an accommodation to the GOP base, whose members insist that White Christians, the people who dominate Congress, statehouses and the Fortune 500, are the true victims of discrimination in the U.S.

Divergent views of history, and their political uses, is the subject of a new report by Public Religion Research Institute, a public opinion research organization that frequently explores attitudes on race as well as religion. PRRI conducted 26 focus groups across 13 Southern states to mine opinions of 155 religiously affiliated White and Black Americans on Confederate statues and symbolism. (There are still perhaps 2,000 public Confederate monuments around the U.S.)

The focus groups, segregated by race, were consistent with larger studies. Southern Whites were markedly less troubled by symbols of racial domination looming over public spaces than were Southern Blacks. There was, for example, a 42-point gap on whether the Confederate flag is a symbol of "Southern pride" rather than "racism," with 58% of Whites citing pride compared with only 16% of Blacks.

That the emblem of slavery, subjugation and treason is still deemed a matter open to cheerful misinterpretation is a useful gauge of how unready many conservatives are to grapple with actual American history, AP or otherwise. The racial terrorism of the past, both the distant and the very near, is not a subject that Republicans are willing to discuss honestly; too many GOP voters won't like what they hear.

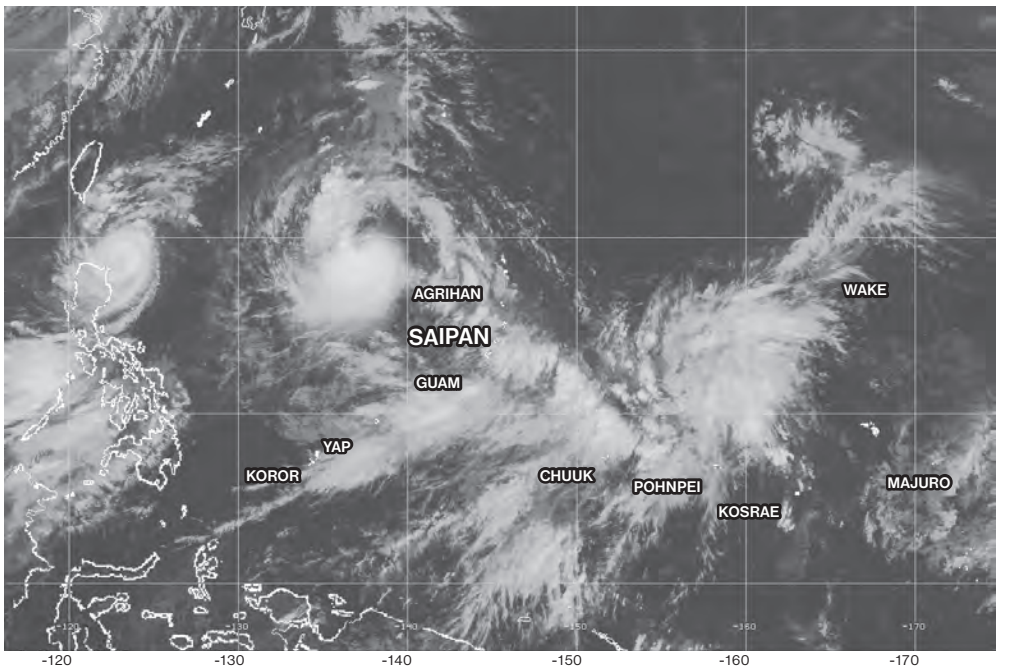
Arkansas perennially ranks near the bottom in educational success (and in child welfare more generally). Keeping knowledge away from high-school students will, of course, increase the already high price of underperforming schools. For politicians like Huckabee Sanders, however, public ignorance yields private power.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	85° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:49 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows a rainband associated with the monsoon trough just north of Saipan, which is flowing into distant Tropical Storm Haikui, which is headed even further away from the islands. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 to 3 foot east swell. Computer wave model guidance shows a west swell of 6 to 8 feet, resulting in combined seas of 6 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:49 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	-	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	-	6:56 AM	7:35 PM
Saturday	-	7:55 AM	8:17 PM
Sunday	-	8:53 AM	8:58 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorm	72° / 55°
Busan	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°
Salem	Thunderstorm	88° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	95° / 77°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:43 AM	Low Tide	1.28
5:50 AM	High Tide	2.13
1:07 PM	Low Tide	-0.33
8:01 PM	High Tide	2.08

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Computer problems shut down Toyota assembly lines in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—All 28 vehicle assembly lines at Toyota's 14 auto plants in Japan shut down Tuesday over a problem in its computer system that deals with incoming auto parts.

The automaker doesn't believe the problem was caused by a cyberattack but the cause is still under investigation, said spokeswoman Sawako Takeda.

It's unclear when the lines will be back up.

Toyota declined to say what models being produced might be affected.

The shutdown comes after a shortage of computer chips and other auto parts stalled production in Asian nations affected by social restrictions over the coronavirus pandemic.

The chips shortage woes had only recently started to ease for Japan's top automaker, which makes the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid, Lexus luxury brand.

Amazon is raising free-shipping minimums for some customers who don't have Prime

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon has been quietly raising the amount some customers must spend on its site to get free shipping.

To qualify for no-cost deliveries, some Amazon customers who don't have Prime memberships now need to spend $35, up from $25 previously.

Amazon spokesperson Kristina Pressentin confirmed the company is testing the new qualification, which was first reported by the blog eCommerce Bytes. The change doesn't impact Prime members who pay $14.99 per month, or $139 a year, for free shipping and other perks.

AP

Packages pass through a scanner at an Amazon fulfillment center, Aug. 3, 2017, in Baltimore.

"We continually evaluate our offerings and make adjustments based on those assessments," Pressentin said.

For now, the new $35 minimum seems to apply to customers based on where they live, the consumer education website Consumer World said Monday. Among other cities, it noted Seattle, where Amazon is headquartered, has a $25 minimum, while non-Prime customers in nearby Bellevue have to pay $35 for free shipping.

The move comes as the online retail giant works to cut costs across different areas of its business. The company has cut more than 27,000 corporate jobs in the past year and axed areas of its business that haven't been delivering. Earlier this year, it stopped free grocery delivery for Prime members on orders less than $150.

In the past, Amazon has raised the threshold order amount for free shipping as high as $49. It lowered it to $25 in 2017 as Walmart was ramping up its ecommerce operations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

American Airlines fined $4.1 million for dozens of long tarmac delays

DALLAS (AP)—The federal government is fining American Airlines $4.1 million for dozens of instances in which passengers were kept on board planes without a chance to exit during long ground delays. The U.S. Department of Transportation said Monday it is the largest such fine against an airline since rules covering long ground delays took effect about a decade ago. American owes half the fine in the next 30 days, while the department gave the airline credit for the other half, just over $2 million, for compensation it paid to delayed passengers, according to a consent order that settled the case. The department said its investigation revealed that from 2018 through 2021, American kept 43 domestic flights stuck on the ground for at least three hours without giving passengers—5,821 in all—the chance to deplane.

Google to invest another $1.7 billion into Ohio data centers

NEW ALBANY, Ohio (AP)—Google will invest an additional $1.7 billion to support three data center campuses in central Ohio, the company announced Monday. The tech giant now operates a center in New Albany and announced in May that it would build additional centers in Columbus and Lancaster to help power its artificial intelligence technology and other tools. Mark Isakowitz, Google's vice president of government affairs and public policy, said the additional money will be used to complete the Columbus and Lancaster centers and expand the New Albany facility, but did not disclose more specific details. Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, who participated in Google's announcement, said no tax credits or other public incentives were offered to Google for the data-center expansion.

Thousands in Colombia protest 50% increase in gas prices

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Thousands of protesters on cars and motorbikes took to the streets of Colombia's main cities on Monday to reject recent hikes in gasoline prices that have drastically increased the price of fuel in the South American country.

Protesters say that the monthly price hikes set by Colombia's first leftist government are making it harder for small businesses to operate, and could push up the price of food.

But the government of President Gustavo Petro says the gasoline subsidies cost about $11 billion a year. It says it must eliminate the subsidies to pay debts to the national oil company Ecopetrol, which produces most of the country's fuel, and to free up more funds for social programs.

The protest comes as discontent grows with Petro's administration a year after he took office promising to reduce poverty and make peace with the nation's remaining rebel groups.

Petro's administration has struggled to stop violence in rural parts of the country, and to boost Colombia's economy, which is expected to grow by just 1% in 2023, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"This government is making decisions that are anti-business," said Alejandra Mendoza, the manager of a small company that transports frozen food and other goods for supermarkets in Colombia. She attended Monday's protest wearing her company's yellow jacket.

"Our costs have gone up by a third, and we have to adjust our budget each month because of the gasoline hikes" Mendoza said.

The price of gasoline in Colombia has risen from 9,000 pesos a gallon in August of last year (US $2.50) to more than 14,000 currently ($3.40) as Colombia's government cuts back on subsidies each month.

Officials in Colombia's Finance Ministry have said they want gasoline to reach a price of 16,000 pesos per gallon --about $4 -- by the end of the year, which would mirror current gas prices in the U.S., where the federal minimum wage, however, is more than four times greater than Colombia's minimum wage of $280 a month.

In July, the ministry said that subsidies for diesel, which is used by most cargo trucks in Colombia. will be removed after municipal elections in October, and that the price of diesel fuel will double by the end of next year.

Petro has argued that the nation's gasoline subsidies mostly benefited wealthier Colombians who own vehicles. But he has shown signs that he is willing to negotiate gasoline prices with some groups.

Over the weekend, Petro's administration cut a deal with the nation's taxi driver unions, under which gasoline prices will be frozen for the country's estimated 200,000 yellow taxis.

However members of Colombia's opposition say that the government needs to go further because gas hikes are also hurting delivery workers, drivers and small business owners who are struggling to recover from the pandemic.

Jennifer Pedraza, a congresswoman who helped to organize Monday's protest, pointed out that the government could moderate the hikes in fuel prices, by charging less sales taxes on gasoline and diesel.

"The people are asking the administration to negotiate a different gasoline policy" she said, adding that its time for Colombia's national oil company to "take an interest, in making gasoline affordable for all."

AP

Motorcycle riders and car drivers hold a caravan to protest the increase in gas prices in Bogota, Colombia, Monday, Aug. 28, 2023.

Nation

Florida governor declares state of emergency ahead of Idalia's landfall

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Florida residents loaded up on sandbags and evacuated from homes in low-lying areas along the Gulf Coast as Tropical Storm Idalia intensified Monday and forecasters predicted it would hit in days as a major hurricane with potentially life-threatening storm surges.

"You should be wrapping up your preparation for #TropicalStormIdalia tonight and Tues morning at the latest," the National Weather Service in Tampa Bay said Monday on X, formerly known as Twitter.

As the state prepared, Idalia thrashed Cuba with heavy rain, especially in the westernmost part of the island, where the tobacco-producing province of Pinar del Rio is still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian almost a year ago.

Authorities in the province issued a state of alert, and residents were evacuated to friends' and relatives' homes as authorities monitored the Cuyaguateje river for possible flooding. As much as 10 centimeters (4 inches) of rain fell in Cuba on Sunday, meteorological stations reported.

AP

Members of the Tampa, Fla., Parks and Recreation Dept., help residents with sandbags Monday, Aug. 28, 2023, in Tampa, Fla.

Idalia is expected to start affecting Florida with hurricane-force winds as soon as late Tuesday and arrive on the coast by Wednesday. It is the first storm to hit Florida this hurricane season and a potentially big blow to the state, which is also dealing with lingering damage from last year's Hurricane Ian.

Idalia is also the latest in a summer of natural disasters, including wildfires in Hawaii, Canada and Greece; the first tropical storm to hit California in 84 years, and devastating flooding in Vermont.

"Just got to prepare for these things, hope for the best, and prepare for the worst and, you know, hunker down, as they say," said Derek Hughes as he waited to load up his car with sandbags at a city park in Tampa.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in 46 counties, a broad swath that stretches across the northern half of the state from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic Coast. The state has mobilized 1,100 National Guard members, who have 2,400 high-water vehicles and 12 aircraft at their disposal for rescue and recovery efforts.

Tampa International Airport and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport said they would close on Tuesday, and the Sunrail commuter rail service in Orlando was being suspended.

DeSantis warned of a "major impact" to the state, noting the potential for Idalia to become a Category 3 hurricane.

Trump chief of staff Meadows says actions laid out in Georgia indictment were 'part of his job'

ATLANTA (AP)—Mark Meadows testified in court Monday that actions detailed in a sweeping indictment that accuses him of participating in an illegal conspiracy to overturn then-President Donald Trump's 2020 election loss were all part of his job as White House chief of staff.

Meadows

The extraordinary testimony—from a former top presidential aide who now faces charges alongside his old boss—came in the first courtroom skirmish in a case that's likely to have many. Meadows' claims were part of his argument that the case should be moved from a state court to federal court. U.S. District Judge Steve Jones did not immediately rule.

As Trump was consumed by claims of widespread election fraud in the weeks after his 2020 loss, Meadows said, it was difficult to focus on the things they needed to be doing to wind down the presidency. As a result, Meadows said, he took actions to determine whether the allegations were true, including actions prosecutors allege were improper.

Meadows said he didn't believe he did anything that was "outside my scope as chief of staff."

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who used Georgia's racketeering law to bring the case, alleges that Trump, Meadows and 17 others participated in a wide-ranging conspiracy to try to keep the Republican president in power illegally even after his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Willis' team argued that Meadows' actions were political in nature and not performed as part of his official duties.

It's just one of four criminal cases Trump is currently facing. In Washington on Monday, a judge overseeing a federal case over charges that Trump sought to illegally subvert the results of the 2020 election set a trial date for March 4, 2024, right in the heart of the presidential primary calendar.

Trump trial set for March 4, 2024, in federal case charging him with plotting to overturn election

WASHINGTON (AP)—A judge on Monday set a March 4, 2024, trial date for Donald Trump in the federal case in Washington charging the former president with trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election, rejecting a defense request to push back the case by years.

Trump

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan rebuffed claims by Trump's attorneys that an April 2026 trial date was necessary to account for the huge volume of evidence they say they are reviewing and to prepare for what they contend is a novel and unprecedented prosecution. But she agreed to postpone the trial slightly beyond the January 2024 date proposed by special counsel Jack Smith's prosecution team.

"The public has a right to a prompt and efficient resolution of this matter," Chutkan said.

If the current date holds, it would represent a setback to Trump's efforts to push the case back until well after the 2024 presidential election, a contest in which he's the early front-runner for the Republican nomination.

The March 2024 date would also ensure a blockbuster trial in the nation's capital in the heat of the GOP presidential nominating calendar, forcing Trump to juggle campaign and courtroom appearances and coming the day before Super Tuesday—a crucial voting day when more than a dozen states will hold primaries and when the largest number of delegates are up for grabs.

"I want to note here that setting a trial date does not depend and should not depend on the defendant's personal or professional obligations," Chutkan said.

Chutkan has so far appeared cool to Trump's efforts to delay the case but also concerned by social media comments he's made outside court. This month, she warned Trump's legal team that there were limits on what he can say publicly about evidence in the investigation. She reiterated her intention Monday for Trump to be "treated with no more or less deference than any defendant would be treated."

ACROSS THE NATION

10 people charged in kidnapping and death of man from upstate New York homeless encampment

ITHACA, N.Y. (AP)—Ten people have been charged in the death of a man who was kidnapped from a homeless encampment on the outskirts of Ithaca and found buried in a neighboring county more than two months later, authorities said Monday. The charges were announced 100 days after Thomas Rath, 33, was reported missing from the area known as "The Jungle," a patch of woods housing tents and makeshift shelters behind a stretch of retail stores less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from Cornell University. Two of the suspects are charged with murder and nine are charged with kidnapping. The men and women were arrested over the past two weeks, according to police, who said additional arrests are expected. At a news conference, authorities said the investigation was ongoing and did not say how Rath died or discuss a possible motive.

2 adults and 2 young children found fatally stabbed inside New York City apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—A mother, father and their two children, ages 1 and 3, were found fatally stabbed inside a New York City apartment Monday, police said. Officers who were called for a wellness check on Manhattan's Upper West Side found the bodies of the young boys, along with a 41-year-old man and 40-year-old woman just before 3 p.m. The adults had trauma to the neck and the children had wounds to their bodies, a police spokesperson said. Emergency officials pronounced all of them dead at the scene. Police arriving at the apartment found the door locked and enlisted the help of firefighters to enter. Officers were investigating whether the deaths may have been the result of a murder-suicide.

Biden administration to target drugs for price negotiations to lower Medicare costs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden's administration will announce on Tuesday the first prescription drugs being targeted by the U.S. government for price negotiations as part of an effort to lower Medicare costs. The announcement is a significant step under the Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed by Biden last year. The law requires the federal government for the first time to start negotiating directly with companies about the prices they charge for some of Medicare's most expensive drugs. The process has drawn legal challenges from drugmakers and heavy criticism from Republicans in Congress. It's also a centerpiece of Biden's reelection pitch as he seeks a second term in office by touting his work to lower costs for Americans at a time when the country has struggled with inflation.

Asia

AFTER START OF FUKUSHIMA WASTEWATER

Japan asks China to urge citizens to stop harassment of Japanese

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida asked China on Monday to urge its citizens to halt acts of harassment, including crank calls and stone throwing at Japanese diplomatic facilities and schools, in response to Japan's release of treated radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

"I must say it is regrettable," Kishida said.

He said Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Masataka Okano summoned China's ambassador, Wu Jianghao, to ask that Chinese people act calmly and responsibly.

The release of the treated wastewater into the ocean, which began Thursday and is expected to continue for decades, has been strongly opposed by fishing groups and by neighboring countries. China immediately banned all imports of Japanese seafood in response. In South Korea, thousands of people joined rallies over the weekend to condemn the discharge.

Acts of harassment including crank phone calls and stone throwing have targeted Japan's embassy and consulates and Japanese schools in China, while China's government has not responded to requests from Japan for a joint scientific discussion of the release by experts, Kishida said. He said the Japanese plan is seen by many countries as scientific and transparent.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK said thousands of crank calls from China have targeted Fukushima government offices and the nuclear plant's operator. It said many of the callers shouted in Chinese, and some yelled "stupid" and other swear words.

Thousands of South Korean protesters shout slogans during a rally to demand the stop of the Japan's release of treated radioactive water into the sea from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant and denounce the South Korean government's policy in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023. AP

Japan's government and the plant operator say treated radioactive wastewater that has accumulated since the March 2011 accident at the nuclear plant, now totaling 134 million tons and stored in about 1,000 tanks, is taking up much of the plant area and must be removed to free up space to build facilities for the plant's cleanup and decommissioning, which are also expected to take decades.

Kishida also pledged Monday to do his utmost to protect Japan's fisheries industry from the impact of China's import ban and said he will announce support measures later this week.

Japan's Foreign Ministry issued a travel advisory on Sunday urging Japanese citizens to use extra caution in China, citing an escalation of harassment and violent protests, and not talk loudly in Japanese to avoid attention.

At home, the release plan has faced fierce opposition from Japanese fishing groups which fear it will further hurt the reputation of seafood from the Fukushima area. The groups are still striving to repair the damage to their businesses caused by the meltdowns of three reactors at the power plant caused by a massive earthquake and tsunami.

All seawater and fish sampling data since the release have been way below set safety limits.

Economy and Industry Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura visited Fukushima on Monday to help with damage control. He joined officials from a supermarket chain and sampled locally caught surf clams and flounder.

"I hope to promote delicious Fukushima seafood to as many people in and outside Japan as possible," Nishimura said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Powerful quake and aftershocks rock Indonesia's Bali and Java islands. No casualties reported

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake and two strong aftershocks rocked Indonesia's resort island of Bali and other parts of the country early Tuesday, causing panic but no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 and was centered in the Bali Sea 181 kilometers (112 miles) northeast of Gili Air, a tiny island near the coast of Lombok Island, next to Bali. It occurred at a depth of 513.5 kilometers (319 miles). Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of dangers from aftershocks. The agency put the quake's preliminary magnitude at 7.4.

N. Korea's Kim calls for readiness to smash US-led invasion plot, as US trains with South and Japan

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for his military to be constantly ready for combat to thwart its rivals' plots to invade his country, state media said Tuesday, as the U.S., South Korea and Japan held a trilateral naval exercise to deal with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. The U.S. and South Korean militaries have been separately holding summer bilateral exercises since last week. North Korea views such U.S.-involved training as an invasion rehearsal, though Washington and its partners maintain their drills are defensive. Kim said in a speech marking the country's Navy Day on Monday that the waters off the Korean Peninsula have been made unstable "with the danger of a nuclear war" because of U.S.-led hostilities, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

World

Five dead, including 4 children, in boat sinkings off Greek isles

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Five people, including four children, died and dozens were rescued Monday in two separate incidents involving migrant boats heading to Greek islands from nearby Turkish shores, Greek authorities said.

The coast guard said four people died and 18 were rescued after a boat carrying migrants apparently sank northeast of the Greek island of Lesbos, which is near the Turkish coast. Government spokesperson Pavlos Marinakis said all four were children: an 8-year-old boy and three girls aged 14, 8 and 11 months.

Greece's minister for merchant marine, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, said the coast guard carried out the rescue inside Turkish waters. Coast guard spokesperson Nikos Alexiou said the Turkish coast guard did not conduct a rescue operation, so a Greek patrol boat recovered the passengers.

The survivors were taken to Lesbos' main port of Mytilene, where two people were transferred to a local hospital.

Earlier Monday at about 1 a.m., a coast guard patrol boat spotted a dinghy carrying 37 people off the eastern Aegean island of Samos, the coast guard said. It said the passengers fell into the water upon seeing the patrol boat, triggering a rescue operation.

A woman and a young boy were pulled from the water unconscious and coast guard officers tried to resuscitate them, authorities said. The woman died but the boy survived and was transferred to a hospital on Samos along with nine other survivors, the coast guard said.

"We express our deepest sadness" for the five deaths, Marinakis said at a regular briefing. He praised the coast guard for "superhuman efforts" to rescue lives at sea. "It is imperative that the dismal smuggling networks that exploit vulnerable people are struck at their roots," he said.

Later Monday, coast guard vessels rescued another 75 migrants found on inflatable dinghies in three separate incidents off Lesbos, part of an increase in arrivals over the past two months.

Mexico sends 1.2K more troops to Michoacan

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government said Monday it sent 1,200 more troops to the cartel-dominated western state of Michoacan after a weekend of violence.

State prosecutors said three convenience stores and five trucks and cars had been set afire, a tactic often used by drug cartels in the state to block roads and enforce extortion demands. Prosecutors said three men and three youths aged 16 and 17 were arrested in the attacks.

A Defense Department statement said the soldiers and National Guard members were deployed over the weekend. It said they were ordered to prevent cartels from blocking any more roads, "so that people can go about their business normally."

Soldiers are stationed in every Mexican state, but the army did not say how many already were in Michoacan before the weekend deployment.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said that "peace and tranquility" had been restored to the region and called the weekend violence acts of "propaganda and publicity."

Life in the cities affected by the violence—Apatzingan, Buenavista and Uruapan—is anything but normal.

Lime growers and farmers in the township of Buenavista complained in recent weeks of widespread drug cartel extortion, and in Apatzingan most basic goods cost almost double their normal price because the cartels takes a slice of most purchases.

That kind of mass threats and extortion of lime growers sparked an uprising by civilian vigilante groups a decade ago.

Pope says some 'backward' conservatives in US Catholic Church have replaced faith with ideology

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis has blasted the "backwardness" of some conservatives in the U.S. Catholic Church, saying they have replaced faith with ideology and that a correct understanding of Catholic doctrine allows for change over time.

Pope Francis

Francis' comments were an acknowledgment of the divisions in the U.S. Catholic Church, which has been split between progressives and conservatives who long found support in the doctrinaire papacies of St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI, particularly on issues of abortion and same-sex marriage.

Many conservatives have blasted Francis' emphasis instead on social justice issues such as the environment and the poor, while also branding as heretical his opening to letting divorced and civilly remarried Catholics receive the sacraments.

Francis made the comments in a private meeting with Portuguese members of his Jesuit religious order while visiting Lisbon on Aug. 5; the Jesuit journal La Civilta Cattolica, which is vetted by the Vatican secretariat of state, published a transcript of the encounter Monday.

During the meeting, a Portuguese Jesuit told Francis that he had suffered during a recent sabbatical year in the United States because he came across many Catholics, including some U.S. bishops, who criticized Francis' 10-year papacy as well as today's Jesuits.

The 86-year-old Argentine acknowledged his point, saying there was "a very strong, organized, reactionary attitude" in the U.S. church, which he called "backward." He warned that such an attitude leads to a climate of closure, which was erroneous.

"Doing this, you lose the true tradition and you turn to ideologies to have support. In other words, ideologies replace faith," he said.

"The vision of the doctrine of the church as a monolith is wrong," he added. "When you go backward, you make something closed off, disconnected from the roots of the church," which then has devastating effects on morality.

Good Housekeeping

Windowless rooms

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

From lack of natural light to functionality feasibility, windowless rooms often pose a challenge.

Let there be light. With the absence of natural sources, here's your guide to infusing spaciousness into windowless rooms.

Lighting options:

■ Portable lights: table and floor lamps.

■ Fixed lights: recess lighting, pendants, chandeliers and wall sconces.

■ Construction-created lights: clerestories, dormers or skylights.

Decor tricks

Elements such as mirrors can help make a room feel more spacious and open. See also: light-colored paints and neutral fabrics.

The home office

One popular functional option for a windowless space is to transform it into a home office.

■ When designing a windowless office space, here are some Design Recipes tips:

■ Add lots of mirrors to help make the space feel bigger.

■ Incorporate interesting design elements such as whimsical wallpaper or a bright paint color.

■ Be purposeful with furniture, as windowless rooms tend to be smaller spaces.

■ Add plenty of portable light such as table and floor lamps.

■ Incorporate floor coverings to help make windowless spaces feel cozy.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS

A windowless room is transformed into a den.

HANDOUT/TNS

A lower-level windowless space is made light and bright through the use of overhead recessed lighting and light, neutral fabrics.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS

A windowless room is made functional as a home office/workspace.

HANDOUT/TNS

A clerestory helps bring natural light in this windowless master bedroom.

INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY NY/TNS

A windowless space is made functional as a small home office and reading area.

Life & Style

London celebrates Caribbean culture with Notting Hill Carnival

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of revelers packed the streets of west London on Monday for the climax of the Notting Hill Carnival, one of the world's biggest celebrations of Caribbean music and culture.

Organizers say up to 2 million people are expected to take in the music, parades, dancing and food over the two days of Europe's largest street party, which began Sunday with a children's parade.

The carnival traces its history back to 1958, when Trinidadian human rights activist Claudia Jones began organizing a gathering to unify the community after a series of racist attacks on Black people in the Notting Hill neighborhood.

AP

Performers taking part in the adults parade, part of the Notting Hill Carnival celebration in London, Monday, Aug. 28, 2023.

Launched in 1964 with a few Trinidadian steel bands, it has grown into a huge annual street party involving colorful floats, thousands of calypso dancers in spectacular feathered costumes, almost 20 steel bands and more than two dozen sound systems.

The carnival returned to the neighborhood's narrow streets last year after two years when it had to be held online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This year's event coincides with commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the arrival in England of the Empire Windrush, a ship carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean to new lives in Britain. The voyage became a symbol of the post-war mass migration that has transformed the U.K. and its culture.

That journey has not always been easy, a fact exposed when some members of the Windrush generation were caught up in a U.K. immigration crackdown that improperly targeted legal residents largely from the Caribbean and other parts of the former British Empire.

Shakira to be given the Video Vanguard Award at 2023 MTV Video Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shakira will receive the Video Vanguard Award at the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards next month. Previous recipients include Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, and Missy Elliott.

She will also perform on the VMA stage for the first time in 17 years.

The Colombian singer has won four VMAs across her career, starting with her win in the International Viewer's Choice (Latin America North) back in 2000.

This year, she is nominated for four awards: artist of the year, best collaboration (for "XQG," with Karol G) and two noms in the best Latin category—for the same Karol G collab, and for her solo single, "Acróstico."

"Shakira is a true global force who continues to inspire & influence the masses with her unique, musical prowess. She's a trailblazer for women around the world & one of the first artists to lead the globalization of Latin music," said Bruce Gillmer, chief content officer of music at Paramount+ and president of music, music talent, programming and events at Paramount. "Her massive impact across the musical landscape will be long lasting as she continues to create and entertain at the highest level."

Ceremony marks start of journey home for stolen totem pole

LONDON (AP)—Members of a Canadian First Nation held a spiritual ceremony on Monday at a Scottish museum to begin the homeward journey of a totem pole stolen almost a century ago.

The 11-meter (36-foot) pole is being restored by the National Museum of Scotland to the Nisga'a Nation in northern British Columbia—one of the first times a British museum has returned artifacts to any of North America's Indigenous peoples.

The museum agreed last year to return the pole, which has been on display in the Edinburgh building since 1930. Nisga'a researchers say it was taken without consent in 1929 by an anthropologist who sold it to the museum.

Chief Earl Stephens, who has the Nisga'a cultural name Sim'oogit Ni'isjoohl, said that "in Nisga'a culture, we believe that this pole is alive with the spirit of our ancestors."

"After nearly 100 years, we are finally able to bring our dear relative home to rest on Nisga'a lands," he said.

'Gran Turismo' takes weekend box office crown over 'Barbie' after all

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The box office results are in and Sony's racing movie "Gran Turismo" won the weekend over "Barbie," after all.

On Sunday, " Gran Turismo" appeared to be neck-and-neck with Warner Bros.' "Barbie," now in its sixth weekend, with both hovering just over $17 million. But Monday actuals reported by the studios provided a clear winner: "Gran Turismo" ended up with $17.4 million from North American theaters against "Barbie's" $15.1 million.

As is usually the case with new wide releases, "Gran Turismo's" total also included earnings from Thursday night pre-shows ($1.4 million). More unconventionally, however, Sony also factored in $3.9 million from other preview screenings (or "sneaks") held before Thursday—a less commonly used but still standard practice.

"Gran Turismo" was originally set for a wide release on Aug. 11, but with actors unable to help promote the film as the actors strike stretches on, Sony pivoted and instead opted for limited preview screenings and fan events for two weeks, leading up to a national rollout this past weekend.

It was an unusual weekend in multiplexes. U.S. movie theaters held the second annual National Cinema Day on Sunday, offering $4 tickets to all films and showtimes at nearly all of the country's theaters. This might have been part of the reason why the Sunday estimate for "Barbie" was perhaps a bit too bullish at $7.75 million, compared to its actual Sunday total of $5.7 million.

"Barbie" may have technically sold more tickets this weekend, but studios do not report on individual admissions in North America. The day-to-day tallies show "Barbie" with the edge on Saturday and Sunday, however. On Saturday, "Barbie" made $5.4 million against "Gran Turismo" at $4.1 million. Sunday, "Barbie" also made more ($5.7 million versus compared to $4.7 million for "Gran Turismo").

Husband's wandering eye has never been a secret

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for 18 years. It's a second marriage for both of us. He cheated on his ex with me. Soon after we were married, he told me that, given the chance, he would cheat on me, but that I shouldn't worry because no really pretty woman would ever want him.

Six years into our marriage, I needed to find something on his phone and saw he had signed up on a dating website for married people looking to cheat. We went to counseling. He said he wasn't planning on following through; he just wanted to see what was out there.

Not long afterward, I noticed he had checked a website for dating foreign women, but he needed a credit card, so he gave up. Off to counseling again. I told him that was strike two.

Last month, I went on vacation with my daughter. Last week, he accidentally deleted something on his phone and asked me to find it. What I also found were emails from women offering their services, all of them sent while I was away. ("Send money, I'll send more titillating photos.") He claims he didn't ask for them. There are eight or 10. My question: Is this strike three?

FOOLISH LADY IN MARYLAND

DEAR LADY: It should be obvious to you by now that your husband isn't interested in being faithful. If you're looking for a reason to leave him, this is strike three. If not, it's strike 2 1/2. (Please get yourself tested for STDs.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful daughter has a great job, two lovely sons and a fiance who loves her. She seems to have it all. But since she's been with him, she has gained weight. I would estimate that she now weighs around 250 pounds. She has no energy, doesn't walk at all, and sits in front of the TV when she's not at work. She refuses to allow her picture to be taken; she always insists on being the one taking pictures.

I know she's bothered about her weight. I know I am bothered because I'm afraid she won't live 10 more years. Last weekend, we were at an outside self-service restaurant with a steep terrace. We wanted another drink. She asked me to get them because she would be too out of breath. I made two trips bringing things down to our table.

How can I say I think she needs to lose weight? Of course, she does, but will this ruin our relationship? I almost feel like she needs an intervention. We would be as worried if it were alcohol that was threatening her life. But it's food. Her fiance is also overweight. I think he's an enabler.

I'm stressed and depressed over this. They plan to be married next year, and I wonder how much they will weigh by then. Any advice?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

PROTECTIVE MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR MOM: Your concern is valid. Your daughter's weight gain and sedentary lifestyle could lead to serious health problems if they aren't addressed. That said, the intervention should come from your daughter's doctor, if she has one, rather than from you.

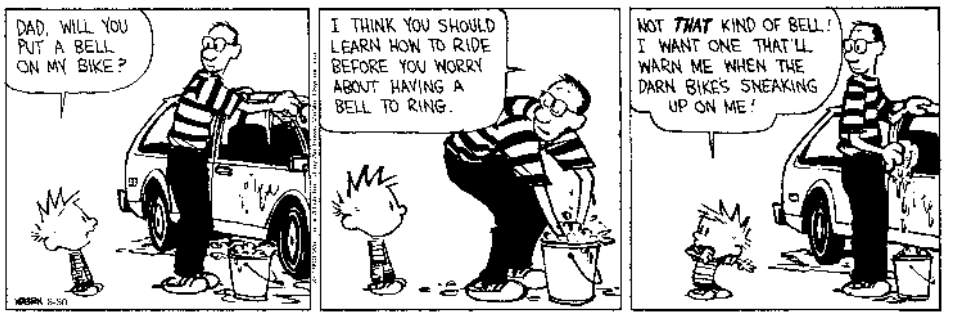
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

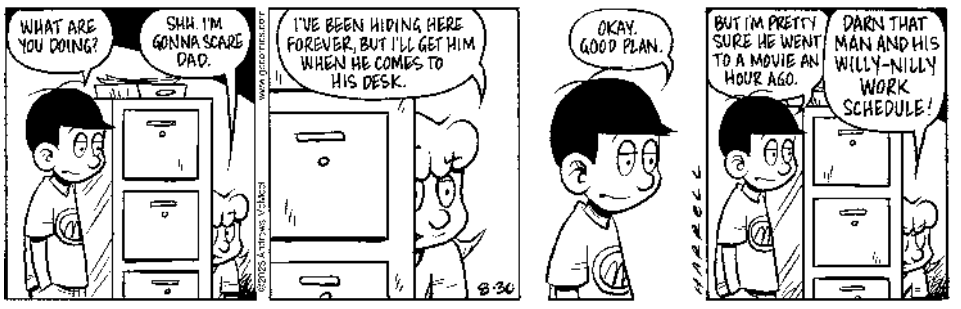

DAD, WILL YOU PUT A BELL ON MY BIKE?
I THINK YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO RIDE BEFORE YOU WORRY ABOUT HAVING A BELL TO RING.
NOT THAT KIND OF BELL! I WANT ONE THAT'LL WARN ME WHEN THE DARN BIKES SNEAKING UP ON ME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHH. I'M GONNA SCARE DAD.
I'VE BEEN HIDING HERE FOREVER, BUT I'LL GET HIM WHEN HE COMES TO HIS DESK.
OKAY. GOOD PLAN.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE HE WENT TO A MOVIE AN HOUR AGO.
DARN THAT MAN AND HIS WILLY-NILLY WORK SCHEDULE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I ADDED GAS TO THE CAR AND CHOSE THE BABE'S VOICE FOR DIRECTIONS.
"TURN LEFT IN ONE MILE, AND YOU'RE A LOSER I WOULD NEVER DATE."
I THINK I'LL GO BACK TO PAPER GAS STATION MAPS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chimney buildup
5 Prune
8 Sci-fi fleet
12 — account (never)
13 Chemical suffix
14 "Finding —"
15 Period
17 Thick chunk
18 Sanctuary
19 Nissan model
21 Observe
22 Nest egg choices
23 Canine greeting
26 Boot camp VIP
28 Sudden gush
31 Israel's Golda
33 Klutz
35 "No seats" signs
36 Talk-show group
38 Crib
40 "A mouse!"
41 Scored 100 on
43 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
45 Compel
47 Papa Hemingway
51 Grate
52 Clooney or Streep, e.g.
54 Highland hillside
55 Brit. record label
56 Outside (Pref.)
57 "The — the limit!"
58 Aussie hopper
59 Subsequently

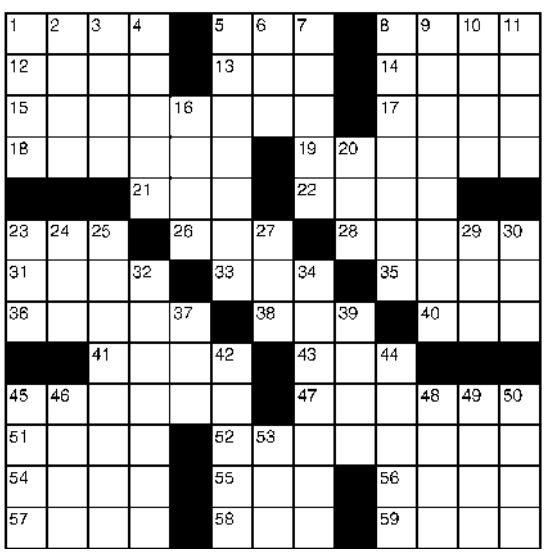
DOWN

1 Couch
2 Burden
3 Unique
4 Bridge fees
5 "Hands off!"
6 Musician Yoko
7 Coke alternative
8 Opens, as a change purse
9 Had no doubts (about)
10 Epps of "This Is Us"
11 Japanese noodles
16 Litigates
20 Hosp. areas
23 Pump up the volume
24 Mens — (criminal intent)
25 Ultimate authority
27 Bar bill
29 Caviar base
30 "For shame!"
32 Cookbook entries
34 Beethoven opera
37 Race segment
39 Par
42 Postpone
44 Start
45 Spheres
46 Fir coat
48 Leave a lasting impression
49 Fill fully
50 1982 sci-fi film
53 Texter's "I think"

Solution time: 23 mins.

G	I	G	A		P	R	O		C	A	P	S
U	T	A	H		E	O	N		O	L	A	Y
M	F	G	A	D	O	S	F		M	A	N	N
P	M	S		E	N	E		S	E	N	S	E
			B	A	Y		B	U	C			
A	D	D	E	R		P	O	B	L	A	N	O
S	O	U	L		D	E	B		O	M	A	R
S	H	A	L	L	O	W		A	S	S	E	T
			I	A	N		A	V	E			
M	E	A	C	Y		P	R	E		C	A	T
B	R	I	O		F	R	U	C	T	O	S	E
A	I	M	S		L	I	B		A	L	T	A
S	K	Y	F		U	M	A		B	A	I	I

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers lo today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18÷ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 41; Lisa Ling, 50; Cameron Diaz, 51; Michael Chiklis, 60.

Happy Birthday: A passionate but disciplined attitude will lead to success this year. Stand tall and march forward with confidence and the will to grow mentally, spiritually and financially. Use your ingenuity to devise ways to use your skills and experience uniquely, and you'll find a sweet spot that is endearing to you and those you encounter. Seize the moment and turn this into a year to remember. Your numbers are 6, 19, 23, 28, 32, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Dig deep, and don't move until you have exhausted all the possibilities. Follow the rules, handle your responsibilities and stand behind your word. A straightforward approach to whatever comes your way will be to your benefit. Act responsibly. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Network, get out with friends or sign up for something rejuvenating. Self-care and mixing business with pleasure will pay off. An unexpected change at home will cause trepidation. Do whatever's necessary to stabilize the situation. Protect your health, heart and financial well-being. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Move forward with caution. Listen carefully and respond without revealing too much information. Protect against manipulative individuals trying to take advantage of you or what you have to offer. A physical outlet will ease stress and help you make a better decision. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your mind wander, and you'll come up with an idea far beyond what you ever imagined. Share your thoughts with someone who can help you take your plan further. Working in conjunction with others will be entertaining and helpful. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take nothing for granted. Do what others expect of you and get what you want in writing. Offer only what's possible and be clear regarding alternatives you may implement. Precision and reliability are significant factors in how much success you derive from the effort. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let emotions stand between you and what you want to achieve. Take pride in what you do, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Consistency will be crucial to getting others to see things your way. Set high standards. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Adjustments that make your life easier will pay off. Do your research and fine-tune your schedule to accommodate the activities, people and things that bring you joy. Take control of your life by choosing a routine that fits your budget and desired lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Participate and make a difference. You'll have no right to complain if you sit back and observe instead of doing your part. Go above and beyond the call of duty at home or work to manufacture recognition. Fine-tune your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* At the first sign of confusion or a red flag alert, back away and rethink your strategy. Protect your reputation, focus on truth and be able to fulfill your promises. Pay attention to how you present yourself and what you hope to accomplish. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Set your sights on what's meaningful to you, and you'll discover a unique way to make a difference. Pay attention to investments, cost increases and budgeting wisely. A move will have long-term benefits. Don't waste your time arguing with someone touting false information. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to how you present yourself to others. Don't feel obligated to give in to someone who is overbearing. Be precise regarding what you want and ready to dismiss yourself from a demanding situation. You have more power than you realize. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stop stressing and start talking. A heart-to-heart discussion will resolve issues that make you feel ill at ease. An honest assessment regarding shared expenses will help redistribute responsibilities making your life easier. A unique idea will change and push you in a new direction. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, original and receptive. You are intellectual and informative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	9		2		4			
5	4	2		7		3	6	
	7	3				2		
9		1						
	2			5				7
	3	4					9	6
2	1				9			
	6				5			4
				6			7	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	3	2	9	8	1	6	7	4
4	8	7	2	6	5	1	9	3
9	1	6	3	4	7	5	2	8
8	7	9	1	5	3	4	6	2
2	5	3	6	7	4	8	1	9
6	4	1	8	2	9	7	3	5
7	2	8	5	9	6	3	4	1
3	9	4	7	1	8	2	5	6
1	6	5	4	3	2	9	8	7

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Difficulty: ★★ 8/29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DO YOU BLOG? Solution: 8 letters

I	N	F	O	R	M	A	L	A	T	I	G	I	D	P
N	M	R	O	F	T	A	L	P	E	N	I	L	N	O
S	L	A	I	R	O	T	I	D	E	T	S	O	P	P
P	C	E	G	E	L	Y	T	S	E	F	I	L	A	I
I	O	R	D	E	T	A	I	L	E	S	C	E	G	N
R	M	A	S	T	Y	P	E	P	S	R	R	I	E	I
E	M	H	S	T	S	V	F	E	I	O	E	S	C	O
E	U	S	E	N	O	M	R	A	E	R	A	U	U	N
C	N	O	N	L	E	P	T	N	S	M	T	R	D	E
N	I	C	T	D	X	C	I	L	O	H	E	E	O	G
E	C	I	I	E	E	A	L	C	E	I	I	H	R	A
T	A	A	F	J	R	O	H	T	U	A	S	O	T	S
N	T	L	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	R	S	N	S
E	E	U	P	D	A	T	E	N	R	E	T	N	I	E
S	S	E	N	L	L	E	W	E	B	S	I	T	E	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Breaking Down

The NEW **Wonderword Grand Millennium #1** in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

A HISTORIC DAY FOR AFRICAN BASKETBALL

South Sudan and Cape Verde get World Cup wins

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—South Sudan is the world's youngest nation, gaining its independence only 12 years ago. Cape Verde is one of the world's least-populated nations, with fewer residents than any country that qualified for the Basketball World Cup.

They stood tall on Monday at the World Cup—both nations winning games at FIBA's biggest tournament for the first time.

It was a double-dose of history for African basketball: South Sudan beat China 89-69 at Manila and Cape Verde beat Valenzuela 81-75 at Okinawa, Japan. The wins kept both teams in contention for berths in the second round of the World Cup, and they remain very much in the race to become Africa's automatic qualifier for next summer's Paris Olympics.

"I'm still speechless," said Cape Verde's Will Tavares, a Rhode Island-born forward who scored 20 points in Monday's win. "I feel like I'm in a dream right now, but the win was so big for us and our country and our families. We made a statement. Even though we're the smallest country, we have so much heart."

They were the two lowest-ranked nations in the 32-team field to begin the tournament, both countries getting to the World Cup for the first time. South Sudan is ranked 62nd worldwide by FIBA, the sport's global governing body; Cape Verde is ranked 64th.

AP

South Sudan players celebrate after winning against China during their Basketball World Cup group B match at the Araneta Coliseum in Manila, Philippines Monday, Aug. 28, 2023.

And they both have a chance to be among the 16 teams still standing when the second round starts Friday.

"I'm just blessed and honored to be a part of this," South Sudan's Nuni Omot said. "This journey so far, it's just been an emotional and amazing feeling for me. And I know everyone else on the team feels the same way as well."

South Sudan's basketball program was essentially started a few years ago by former NBA player Luol Deng, who was born in the country and raised in London after his father—a former Sudanese government official and former political prisoner—was granted asylum by Britain. Deng learned to play basketball in London, a scout noticed him when he was about 14 and his life forever changed.

When Deng's playing days were over, he became president of South Sudan's fledgling basketball federation. If there is an indoor court anywhere in that country, Deng doesn't know where it is. He believes the country doesn't have a single regulation-sized floor.

Yet here its players are, undaunted by doubt, unfazed by massive challenges.

"Luol Deng is the heart and soul of all of this," said South Sudan coach Royal Ivey, an assistant with the NBA's Houston Rockets. "He's the president. Without Luol I wouldn't be sitting here right now. He had a great vision. I entrusted in his vision and it all came together. I'm in awe that I'm sitting here at the World Cup. I'm forever indebted to Luol for giving me an opportunity to coach this team."

Africa has long been considered the sleeping giant in global basketball, and big strides have been made in recent years through investment—such as academies that the NBA has built there to identify and develop promising young players, the NBA-backed Basketball Africa League and the Giants of Africa initiative led by Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri, a native of Nigeria. That group, among other things, is building courts and hosting clinics for boys and girls around the continent.

"Today is a unique and marvelous moment for our people," Cape Verde coach Emanuel Trovoada said.

Both South Sudan and Cape Verde have one game left in group-stage play—South Sudan plays Serbia on Wednesday, while Cape Verde will take on Dallas Mavericks star Luka Doncic and Slovenia. The top-ranked African team at this World Cup will automatically qualify for the Paris Olympics; so far, South Sudan, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast and Angola all have 1-1 records in the race for that berth.

"This is a dream come true," Omot said. "People don't understand where we were just two years ago. To be able to do this in front of our fans, people watching back at home, it's been a very emotional day for everyone getting our first World Cup win."

Doncic stars for Slovenia; Spain, US reach 2nd round at World Cup

OKINAWA, Japan (AP)—It was the Luka Doncic show again at the World Cup.

After scoring 37 points in Slovenia's opening-game victory against Venezuela, he came through with 34 on Monday in an 88-67 win over Georgia. He also had 10 rebounds and six assists for Slovenia, which is on the cusp of making the second round.

Defending champion Spain and the United States each advanced to the second round with victories. Spain defeated Brazil 96-78, and the Americans beat Greece 109-81. The U.S. finished a lowly seventh at this tournament in China four years ago.

South Sudan's 16-year-old Khaman Maluach scored one point and played 16 minutes in his team's 89-69 victory over China to become one of the youngest to ever play in the Basketball World Cup.

The 7-foot-1 Maluach, who is widely considered a 2025 NBA draft prospect, turns 17 next month. The only players younger than Maluach in World Cup history are Ivory Coast's Georges Lath (16 years, 3 months in 1986) and China's Gao Ailun (16 years, 9 months in 2010).

Underdogs South Sudan and Cape Verde picked up wins Monday to stay in contention for the second round. New Zealand and Ivory Coast also stayed alive.

Five teams already had advanced to the second round: Latvia, Canada, Germany, Montenegro and Lithuania. They are now joined by Spain and the U.S. in the round of 16. Tokyo Olympic silver medalist France was knocked out Sunday.

GROUP B
SOUTH SUDAN 89, CHINA 69

At Manila, Philippines, Chicago Bulls guard Carlik Jones scored 21 points as South Sudan beat China to record its first World Cup victory ever. Kuany Kuany added 16 points for South Sudan (1-1), which had the edge throughout and shot 15 of 30 from 3-point range.

After a scoreless debut in the first game, Minnesota Timberwolves sixth man Kyle Anderson had 22 points for China (0-2), which lost its opener to Serbia 105-63.

South Sudan plays Serbia on Wednesday in its final group game and China faces Puerto Rico.

GROUP F
CAPE VERDE 81, VENEZUELA 75

At Okinawa, Japan, Betinho Gomes scored 22 and Will Tavares added 20 to lead Cape Verde (1-1) over Venezuela (0-2). Ivan Almeida tacked on 18.Cape Verde is the lowest ranked team in the tournament according to FIBA rankings, but it doesn't look like it.Venezuela led at the half, 46-33, but was held to only 29 points in the last two quarters. David Cubillan led Venezuela with 15 points and Jhornan Zamora added 14.Cape Verde faces Slovenia on Wednesday and Georgia plays Venezuela.

GROUP C
NEW ZEALAND 95, JORDAN 87 OT

At Manila, Izayah Le'afa scored 23 points and Shea Ili added 15 as New Zealand (1-1) kept alive its hopes of reaching the second round. Jordan (0-2) faces a game Wednesday against the United States.

Rondae Hollis Jefferson hit a 3-pointer with 10 seconds to go and then made his free throw after being fouled to send the game into overtime at 85-85. Jordan was outscored 10-2 in OT.\Former NBA player Hollis Jefferson led Jordan with 39 points and had nine rebounds. Freddy Ibrahim added 22.New Zealand plays Greece on Wednesday for a place in the final 16.

GROUP G
IVORY COAST 71, IRAN 69

In Jakarta, Indonesia, Solo Diabate made three late free throws as Ivory Coast edged Iran. With Iran leading 69-68, Diabate drove to the lane and drew a foul with six seconds left. He had an additional free throw after Iran coach Hakan Demir received a technical foul.Nisre Zouzoua scored 17 points for Ivory Coast (1-1), who lost playmaker Bazoumana Kone to an ankle injury early in the third quarter.Behnam Yakhchali led Iran (0-2) with 19 points but missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Former NBA center Hamed Haddadi had 9 points and 8 rebounds before fouling out late. Ivory Coast plays Brazil on Wednesday in its final group game and Iran meets Spain.

GROUP C
UNITED STATES 109, GREECE 81

At Manila, Austin Reaves scored 15 points with five rebounds and six assists, and Jalen Brunson and Anthony Edwards each scored 13 as the Americans (2-0) reached the second round. The Americans advanced courtesy of their win coupled with New Zealand's victory over Jordan. Georgios Papagiannis had 17 points for the Greece (1-1).

GROUP B
SERBIA 94, PUERTO RICO 77

At Manila, Atlanta Hawks player Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 17 points as Serbia, which led by 30 at the half, did enough to beat Puerto Rico.

Nikola Jovic of the Miami Heat scored 11 of his 17 points in the first quarter to ignite Serbia (2-0).

Puerto Rico (1-1) reduced the margin to 10 points in the fourth quarter before Serbia steadied itself.

Isaiah Pineiro scored 14 points for Puerto Rico, which shot 15 of 38 from 3-point range but just 27 of 74 overall.

Serbia faces South Sudan on Wednesday and Puerto Rico goes against China.

GROUP G
SPAIN 96, BRAZIL 78

At Jakarta, former NBA player Willy Hernangómez scored 14 points and Juan Nunez and Santi Aldama of the Memphis Grizzlies each had 13 as Spain (2-0)—the defending champion—advanced to the second round. The 19-year-old Nunez had seven rebounds and five assists.

Spain moved through with the win coupled with Ivory Coast's victory over Iran.

Former NBA player Bruno Caboclo had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Brazil (1-1).

Spain was 10 of 24 from 3-point range, and Brazil hit only 9 of 33.

Acuña fends off fans, gets 4 hits, 5 RBIs as Braves rout Rockies 14-4

DENVER (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. fended off two fans, including one who made contact with him in right field, while sparking the Atlanta Braves to a 14-4 rout of the Colorado Rockies on Monday night.

Acuña tied career highs with four hits and five RBIs, hitting his 29th home run and stealing two bases to increase his major league-leading total to 61. He is one homer shy of becoming the first 30/60 player.

A fan got his arm around Acuña during the middle of the seventh inning, just after Atlanta scored four runs to open a 9-4 lead. Two security people quickly grabbed the fan and, as they tried to drag him away, a third security person approached.

A second fan sprinted toward the group and was tackled by one of the security people as a fourth member of security chased from behind.

Acuña did not appear to be injured and remained in the game.

Acuña, who leads the major leagues with 119 runs, scored on Austin Riley's third-inning homer against Austin Gomber and hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Karl Kaufmann (1-4).

Bryce Elder (11-4) won his third straight decision, allowing four runs and eight hits in six innings.

BREWERS 6, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Christian Yelich and Mark Canha homered during Milwaukee's four-run first inning, and the Brewers earned their ninth consecutive victory.

Wade Miley pitched six effective innings as Milwaukee increased its NL Central lead to five games over second-place Chicago. It's the longest win streak for the Brewers since an 11-game run in 2021.

Chicago committed two costly errors and finished with five hits. Ian Happ and Patrick Wisdom homered, but Jameson Taillon (7-9) got off to a rough start. He was charged with four earned runs and nine hits in six innings.

Miley (7-3) permitted four hits in his first win since July 9. The veteran left-hander struck out one and walked none while throwing 50 of his 82 pitches for strikes.

ORIOLES 9, WHITE SOX 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Grayson Rodriguez allowed one hit over six innings, and the AL-best Baltimore clinched its second consecutive winning season.

Anthony Santander hit his 25th homer for Baltimore (82-49), which has won eight of its last 10 and increased its AL East lead over idle Tampa Bay to 2 1/2 games. The Orioles went 83-79 last year, their first winning season since 2016.

Rodriguez (4-3) retired the first 11 batters before Luis Robert Jr. doubled to left. Robert was stranded when Eloy Jiménez grounded out two pitches later, and Chicago wouldn't get a runner into scoring position the rest of the night.

Chicago starter Michael Kopech (5-12) allowed four runs in four innings, striking out five. The right-hander is 2-5 with a 7.34 ERA in nine starts since the All-Star break.

Baltimore extended its streak of series without being swept to 82. It is the fifth-longest streak in MLB history and the longest since the St. Louis Cardinals' record 124 in a row from 1942-44.

DODGERS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Heyward hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning that sent Los Angeles to its 22nd win in 26 games this month.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and James Outman also went deep for the Dodgers—the 11th time this season they've hit at least four home runs. They are second in the majors with 204 homers.

Diamondbacks starter Zac Gallen (14-6) allowed a career-high four homers. The right-hander gave up six runs on nine hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Bobby Miller (8-3) allowed four runs in six innings to pick up his second win in his last three outings. Caleb Ferguson worked a perfect ninth for his third save.

Gabriel Moreno hit a two-run homer and drove in three for Arizona. He got the Diamondbacks on the board with an RBI double in the first. Moreno has gone 13 for 31 in his last eight games with two homers and 10 RBIs.

MARINERS 7, ATHLETICS 0

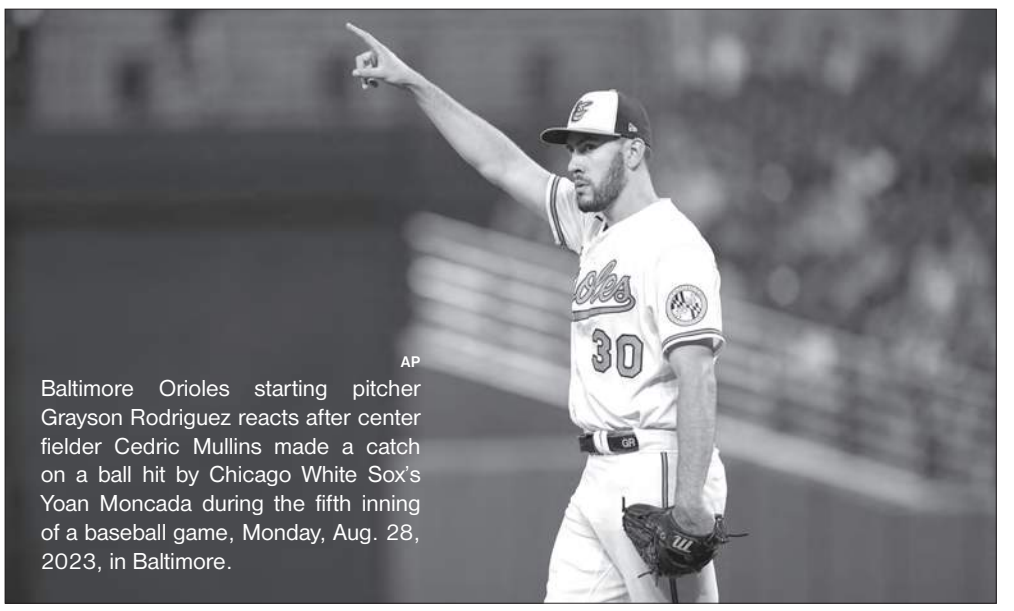
SEATTLE (AP)—Julio Rodríguez kept up his torrid August with four more hits including a two-run homer and an RBI double, J.P. Crawford hit his fifth leadoff homer and Seattle won its fourth straight and for the 12th time in the past 13 games.

Rodríguez extended his hitting streak to a career-best 13 games and homered for the third straight game. During his hitting streak, Rodríguez is hitting .516 (32 of 62) with five homers, six doubles and 21 RBIs.

Seattle was hoping rookie starter Bryan Woo could make it into the fifth inning while still on a limited pitch count after missing time this month with forearm inflammation. Woo (2-3) bettered anything the Mariners could have hoped, scattering three hits over six innings. Woo struck out five and needed just 69 pitches to match his longest career outing.

It was Seattle's 13th shutout this season, tied for second with Cleveland and two back of Atlanta. Oakland was shut out for the 14th time.

Kyle Muller (1-5) started for the first time since July 1 for the A's, having made his last two appearances for Oakland in relief after spending time in the minors. Muller struggled to get through the fourth, giving up six runs and nine hits.



AP

Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Grayson Rodriguez reacts after center fielder Cedric Mullins made a catch on a ball hit by Chicago White Sox's Yoan Moncada during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 28, 2023, in Baltimore.

RANGERS 4, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Nathaniel Lowe hit a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning and Texas won for the first this season when trailing after eight innings.

Tylor Megill allowed one run and struck out eight in six solid innings for the Mets. Trevor Gott (0-4) took the loss.

José Leclerc worked around a two-out walk to Francisco Álvarez in the ninth to earn his second save. Martín Pérez (9-4) tossed two perfect innings of relief.

Rangers starter Jon Gray struck out nine batters in six innings — his most since whiffing 12 in a complete-game loss to St. Louis on June 7.

ASTROS 13, RED SOX 5

BOSTON (AP)—Jose Altuve completed the first cycle of his career with a two-run homer over the Green Monster in the eighth inning, and Houston rolled past Boston.

Altuve struck out swinging to lead off the game, then doubled in the third, singled in the fifth and tripled in the sixth. His homer made him the first Astros player to hit for the cycle since Brandon Barnes against Seattle on July 19, 2013.

Kendall Graveman (4-6) pitched a scoreless fifth inning for Houston, which followed up its 25-hit performance in Sunday's win at Detroit with 18 on Monday. José Urquidy worked the last four innings for the Astros, allowing one run to pick up his first save of the season.

Chris Sale lasted 4 2/3 innings and yielded three runs and seven hits, including a home run.

Red Sox reliever Kyle Barraclough (1-1) walked back-to-back batters to open the sixth. With one out, Altuve hit a deep flyball that ricocheted off the Monster in center, scoring two and allowing Altuve to slide in for a triple.

Barraclough threw 94 pitches in 4 1/3 innings, allowing 10 runs, 11 hits, five walks and three homers. He hit three batters.

PHILLIES 6, ANGELS 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Trea Turner homered twice, Bryce Harper hit a two-run shot and the streaking Philadelphia beat Shohei Ohtani and Los Angeles.

Turner hit a tying solo homer in the second and the go-ahead shot in the fifth that made it 5-3 and sent the NL wild-card leaders to their fourth straight win. Harper lined his sixth homer in the last 11 games into the right-field seats. Philadelphia has a majors-best 52 longballs this month.

Angels starter Lucas Giolito (7-11) allowed all three homers and five runs over 5 2/3 innings. Taijuan Walker (14-5) struck out six and gave up three runs in his 5 2/3 innings.

Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 21st save.

BLUE JAYS 6, NATIONALS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Danny Jansen homered and scored three runs, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. drove in a pair and Toronto defeated Washington.

Blue Jays right-hander Kevin Gausman (10-8) pitched five innings to win for the first time in three starts, allowing three runs and seven hits. He walked two and struck out seven, boosting his AL-leading total to 202. Atlanta's Spencer Strider leads the majors with 236.

Trevor Richards pitched two innings, Génesis Cabrera worked the eighth and Jordan Hicks finished for his 12th save in 15 chances.

Washington right-hander Josiah Gray (7-11) allowed four runs and four hits in two innings, extending his winless streak to six starts. He walked four and struck out two.

TWINS 10, GUARDIANS 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Royce Lewis hit his second grand slam in as many games, giving Minnesota a second-inning jolt on their way to a victory that stretched their AL Central lead to a season-high seven games.

Kody Funderburk (1-0) was credited with the win in his major league debut, tallying three strikeouts, two weak groundouts back to the mound and one popout behind second base over two perfect innings in relief of a roughed-up Kenta Maeda.

Bo Naylor hit a two-run homer and Gabriel Arias and Steven Kwan each had RBI doubles off Maeda, who went four innings and surrendered all six runs.

Guardians starter Xzavion Curry (3-3) lasted only two innings with six runs allowed. Daniel Norris, promoted from Triple-A Columbus for his third stint with the club this year, relieved Curry and gave up homers to Matt Wallner and Jorge Polanco.

GIANTS 4, REDS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Top pitching prospect Kyle Harrison struck out 11 for his first career victory in his home debut with San Francisco, beat Cincinnati for the Giants' third consecutive win.

Harrison (1-0), a third-round draft pick in 2020, allowed three hits and walked two in 6 1/3 shutout innings. He was pulled after Christian Encarnacion-Strand doubled and TJ Friedl walked.

According to the Giants, Harrison is the second starting pitcher since 2000 to have double-digit strikeouts in his second career start. Shohei Ohtani did it for the Angels against the Athletics on April 8, 2018.

San Francisco, which had lost 14 of 20, backed the young starter with plenty of offense and a defensive gem from right fielder Luis Matos, who threw out a runner at the plate in the seventh.

Reds starter Andrew Abbott (8-4), who one-hit the Giants over eight innings on July 20, allowed five hits and three runs in 3 1/3 innings.

YANKEES 4, TIGERS 1

DETROIT (AP)—Aaron Judge ended an 0-for-17 slide with his 249th home run, Luis Severino pitched shutout ball for the second straight start following an alarming skid and New York beat Detroit in a series opener.

Judge walked in the fifth and scored on Gleyber Torres' double, then combined with Torres for back-to-back homers in the seventh off Beau Brieske.

Severino (4-8) allowed five hits in seven innings with eight strikeouts and no walks, following 6 2/3 scoreless innings of one-hit ball against Washington. He has lowered his season ERA from 7.98 to 6.64 in his last two outings after allowing 21 earned runs over 13 1/3 innings over a four-start span.

Detroit has lost three straight by a combined 30-7. Starter Reese Olson (2-6) struck out a career-high 10 in 4 1/3 innings, but allowed one run, three hits and four walks while throwing 100 pitches. He fanned the first eight batters he retired.

PADRES 4, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Blake Snell struck out nine in seven shutout innings and Garrett Cooper had three hits and three RBIs to lift San Diego over St. Louis.

Snell (11-9), who threw five or more innings in his 19th straight start, allowed just two hits and improved to 2-0 in four career starts against the Cardinals. Josh Hader pitched the ninth inning and earned his 28th save.

Adam Wainwright (3-10) surrendered just one run on eight hits in six innings. Wainwright, who turns 42 on Wednesday, has been stuck on 198 career victories since June 17. The 41-year-old right-hander has been plagued by injuries and ineffectiveness in his farewell season. He has made 10 starts trying to record his elusive 199th win.

Paul Goldschmidt hit his 22nd homer of the season off Robert Suarez with one out in the eighth inning.

PIRATES 5, ROYALS 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Johan Oviedo pitched a two-hitter for his first complete game in 53 major league starts, Ke'Bryan Hayes had four hits and Zack Greinke lost his ninth consecutive decision.

Oviedo (8-13) struck out five and walked two while throwing a career-high 112 pitches. It was just the 28th complete game in the major leagues this season and the first complete game in 150 professional starts for the 26-year-old right-hander dating to 2016.

Kansas City didn't advance a runner past first base. The Royals were blanked for the 14th time this season and held to two hits or fewer for the eighth time.

Greinke (1-13) gave up two runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings, dropping to 0-9 in 17 starts since beating Baltimore on May 3. The 39-year-old right-hander is tied with Oviedo, Kyle Freeland and Rich Hill for second in the majors in losses, trailing only teammate Jordan Lyles at 15.

Xavier Naputi is named UOG's Men's Soccer Coach

Triton Athletics has named Xavier Naputi the men's soccer coach at the University of Guam, replacing his brother, Dylan Naputi, who resigned the position earlier in the summer.

Xavier Naputi has served as the assistant soccer coach the past three seasons for both the men's and women's soccer teams at UOG. Xavier Naputi has also coached soccer at George Washington High School as an assistant.

Xavier Naputi played college soccer at North Park University in Chicago, IL and has also played for the Tritons. He played high school soccer in Guam at Father Duenas Memorial School.

"We are glad that Xavier showed interest in the position, and we think he will keep the program moving in a positive direction," said UOG Athletics director Doug Palmer in yesterday's news release.

UOG is still searching for a women's soccer coach at this time and that program does not have a coach in place yet. ***(PR)***

UOG

Triton Athletics has named Xavier Naputi the men's soccer coach at the University of Guam.

PIKABOO

From page 20

teller at The Financial and Insurance Services Group, dedicates his win to his parents, who have been his biggest supporters. He said his father "didn't race, which made me secure the No. 1 spot and he's also my mechanic, making sure we are race-ready every month. Even at 52, he's still a super dad and can still beat me 9/10 times."

However, with the No. 1 plate in his sole possession after his win, Shane Alvarez said that he's motivated to split the wins with his dad now, 50/50.

He thanked his sponsors, TrenchTech Racing Team, Cycles Plus Guam, and the whole Marianas Racing Association, "for making this possible for the past three years and always growing and getting better, making it so much fun. Next year is [going to] be epic as we will be making the jumps bigger and changing it around!"

In the Intermediate Class, Corry Pangelinan had another perfect race by winning both heats for 50 points. Aric Cruz and Melvin Cepeda finished second and third with 44 points and 40 points, respectively. Ethan Yumul came in fourth at 36 points.

In the Novice Class, Vincent Palacios came in a close first place finish with 44 points; Matthew Guerrero claimed second with just a point off at 43; and Charles Cepeda capped off the Top 3 with 41 points.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

MAMAAW

From page 20

then by just one in the fourth inning, 17-16. Both teams attributed their runs to multiple home runs—with Mamaaw's 11 home runs; Iguel hit two of those.

Saipal had 10 home runs themselves—three of those hit by Syl Kapileo.

Just 4 Fun 24, PayDayHao 4

Just 4 Fun destroyed PayDayHao, 24-4, via run-mercy ruling.

From the first at-bat, Just 4 Fun were on a roll as their first three batters reached base, and their pitcher, Nate Camacho, came in and wiped the bases clear with a grand slam for an early lead.

Keith Kintol then hit a home run, followed by a two-run shot by Poland Masaharu for a 7-0 game.

Just 4 Fun continued their influx of runs as they scored nine in the second inning alone, for a 16-0 lead. Three more runs came in for them in the third inning and only then did PayDayHao scored.

PayDayHao's Rob Bansil finally put his team on the board with a three-run home run, followed by another home run by Manny Villagomez. The game ended early though, as that was the extent of PayDayHao's runs and Just 4 Fun came away with a 20-run deficit win.

Aimeliik Bat Boys 21, Ready Mix 9

Aimeliik Bat Boys came batsa-ready against Ready Mix and won, 21-9, in another shortened game.

The Bat Boys' Lamarc Iguel started their plethora of runs in the first inning with a two-RBI home run, with another two-run home run by Irvin Saralu for a 4-0 game.

Ready Mix shortened the lead to two with two home runs, but the Bat Boys only extended their lead in the next inning. Thirteen runs came in for the Bat Boys and with a 17-2 lead, it was a tall order for Ready Mix to make a comeback.

Only seven more runs came in for Ready Mix as the Bat Boys didn't have to add much more to secure the win.

NED

From page 20

for second place with a net score of 149 in two rounds.

Norita said the day out on the greens was "a tough and windy day" and that his putter "was not being friendly," but he stayed patient and tried to do his best.

In the optional plays, Hocog led the Closest to the Pin on hole No.4; Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho took holes No. 6 and 15; and Sasamoto Jr. topped hole No. 11.

Skins—14 total:
Sasamoto Jr. - 4
Camacho - 3
Norita - 3
Zhi Yun Li - 2
Louie Tilipao - 1
Manny Mangerero - 1

RGA's January ace was Marco Peter; February was Zhimin Jin; March was Sixtus Aquino; April ace was Darion Jones; May ace was Tars Olopai; June ace was Zhi Yun Li; and July ace was Carl Hocog.

RGA is one of the few other golf associations in the CNMI under the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations.

So far in the Basketball World Cup, the US has shown off tons of depth

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Through two games of this FIBA World Cup, the players who lead USA Basketball team in scoring, rebounding, assists, steals and blocked shots all share something in common.

They're not starters.

It's not exactly an overwhelming sample size, but those statistical factoids—how the "bench players" are putting up a ton of numbers—shed a lot of light on what makes this U.S. team tick. Nobody cares what's on the stat sheet. Everyone plays a role, starter or non-starter, and that's exactly how USA Basketball wanted this roster to work when it was assembled.

"When you wear this uniform, when you play for Team USA, it's so much bigger than you," U.S. reserve guard Tyrese Haliburton said. "So, you've got to understand that and understand the legends that came off the bench before us. We're no better than them. You've got to understand it and understand that that's part of building a culture here for Team USA. They've been able to do that over the last however-many years and so we're trying to continue that."

He's right. There is a history of this.

Jayson Tatum didn't start any games at the Tokyo Olympics two summers ago. Carmelo Anthony didn't start any games at the 2012 London Olympics—and still had 37 points in only 14 minutes in one of those games, against Nigeria in one of the top USA Basketball performances ever. Dwyane Wade led the 2008 Olympic team in scoring at Beijing and came off the bench in all eight of those games. Charles Barkley didn't start half the games for the original Dream Team at Barcelona in 1992.

All were huge parts of gold-medal-winning teams, and those are just a few examples. This is what USA Basketball asks of players invited to be part of the national team: Show up, leave your ego at home and be part of something bigger than you.

"I get to kind of just go out there, cause havoc and then get a rest," said U.S. wing Josh Hart, another off-the-bench guy for this team. "I'm cool, man. I'm out here playing hard, giving out good vibes. I'll let them do the heavy-loading on offense. I don't really care if I start or not. I know I'm going to get minutes and when I get minutes it's my job to go out there and make those minutes count. It's fun."

Again, it's been only two games. The U.S. is hoping it has six more to play on the way to gold, but the stats to this point certainly suggest that the selflessness the Americans have talked about all summer is more than just talk.

Paolo Banchero (14.5) leads the team at the World Cup in points per game. Hart (7.5) leads in rebounds per game. Austin Reaves (6.0) leads in assists per game, as well as steals per game (2.5). Haliburton and Banchero are the blocked-shots leaders with 2.0 per game.

Combined starts from that group this summer, even including the five exhibition games: Zero.

"I mean, they're not a real second unit. They're a first unit in disguise," U.S. starting center Jaren Jackson Jr. said. "They're doing everything that they need to be doing. Can't really ask any more of them. When they come in, they bring energy, they go on the run. It's like 'Showtime' and you're watching a whole show. So, it's a good show for the fans. I get to watch, too. It's real nice."

Of the 12 players on the U.S. roster, 10 started at least half of their games in the NBA last season. The exceptions there are Reaves (who became a starter late in the year for the Los Angeles Lakers) and Bobby Portis, who plays starter-level minutes in Milwaukee and has a huge role for the Bucks—plus, is the only player on this team with an NBA championship ring.

Coming off the bench isn't something most U.S. reserves here are used to. U.S. coach Steve Kerr has used the same first five in every game this summer—Jalen Brunson, Anthony Edwards, Brandon Ingram, Mikal Bridges and Jackson Jr.—but usually has an entirely new unit on the floor later in the first quarter. It's a win-win-win for the Americans: a lot of guys play, the 'starters' don't get worn down (nobody has averaged even 22 minutes per game so far at the World Cup), and the U.S. gets to show off its depth.

"With the talent that we have, 1 through 12, regardless of who it is we like our chances against anybody," Reaves said. "The first unit wears down the opponents so quick because of the type of basketball that we play. We play fast. Physical defense. So, every time we get in the game, our goal is to turn the intensity and try to wear down teams."

AP

U.S. forward Paolo Banchero (8) gets dunk against Greece during the first half of a Basketball World Cup group C match in Manila, Philippines Monday, Aug. 28, 2023.

Historic day for African basketball, with South Sudan and Cape Verde getting Basketball World Cup wins.
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Sports

Ronald Acuña of the Atlanta Braves fends off fans, gets 4 hits, 5 RBIs as Braves rout Colorado Rockies.
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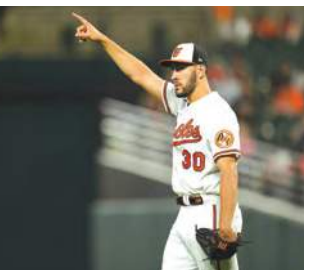

Pikaboo caps season with a win

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez shredded through the dirt and mud at the Cowtown Race Track to cap the August 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race season with a win in the Expert Class last Sunday.

Alvarez, along with his trusty 2023 Kawasaki 250f, had free rein of the track this time around as his father, Justice "Cuki" Alvarez—his No. 1 challenger—didn't compete in the race, handing the younger Alvarez the first-place win with 47 points.

Second to Shane Alvarez was Dave Celis with 43 points, and Patrick Togawa finished off the Top 3 with 42 points.

After the race, the almost 30-year-old winner said, "It always feels great coming out on top for a race. Everyone is pretty fast it just comes down to stamina and muscle endurance because 15 minutes of going really fast gets very tiring and a lot of us are still building up to that."

With the unpredictability of the weather the past couple of months, it was no different that day as the weather factored into his race performance—but he pulled through. "The track was pretty slippery as it started raining hard before the last three races of the first heat, so it was very muddy. When you're behind someone, they throw [up] a lot of mud so vision becomes very minimal and if you were to slide and crash, it's very hard to make up time. It's fun to ride in the mud, though. You have to be smart and it just becomes a whole different obstacle so it's anyone's game at that point."

Shane Alvarez, who is a bank

See PIKABOO on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez tears up dirt and mud during his first place Expert Class win in the last race of the season of the August 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track last Sunday.

Ned Norita is the RGA August Ace of the Month

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ned Norita swung his way to ace status in the Refaluwasch Golf Association August Ace of the Month Tournament at the Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort east course last Sunday.

Norita was in first place with a total net score of 139. He shot a gross score of 74 in round one, and 75 in round two. With a handicap of five, the net score was 69 and 70.

Three players—Carl Hocog, Sherlyn Jones, and Joe Sasamoto Jr.—were tied

See NED on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Refaluwasch Golf Association's Ned Norita is RGA's August Ace of the Month.

Mamaaw holds on to win against Saipal, 23-21

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Mamaaw held on to their two-run lead heading into the last inning and won against Saipal, 23-21, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

With both tied at 21 by the sixth inning, Mamaaw's Ian Norita and Benen Iguel stepped up to the plate and scored two runs for a 23-21 lead in the last inning.

Saipal still had another chance at the bottom of the inning as the home team for a comeback rally, but Mamaaw's pitcher, Norita, shut them down before they could bring runners home from scoring position.

It was a run-frenzied and close game as both pitchers were pummeled with back-to-back hits and home runs from the beginning.

Mamaaw led by two runs in the second inning, 13-11, and

See MAMAAW on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
Mamaaw's Dung Maratita makes contact for a two-run home run in the second inning during their game against Saipal in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.